MARS

15

by Fuyumi Soryo

TOKYOPOP

MARS 15

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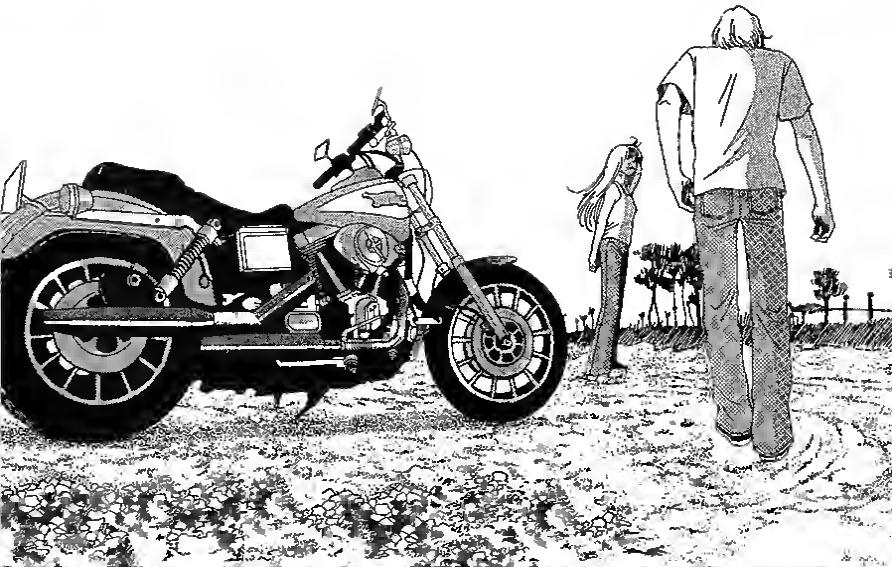

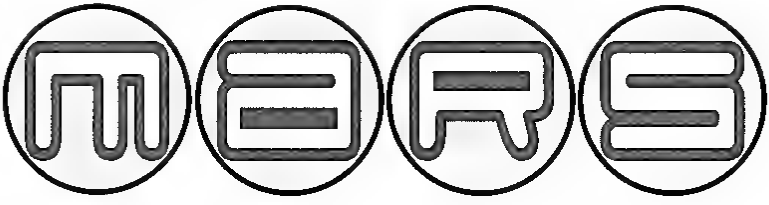

Volume 15

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TOKYOPOP®

LOS ANGELES • TOKYO • LONDON

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A TOKYOPOP® Manga

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MARS VOLUME 15

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ISBN: 1-59182-134-7

First TOKYOPOP printing November 2003

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in the USA

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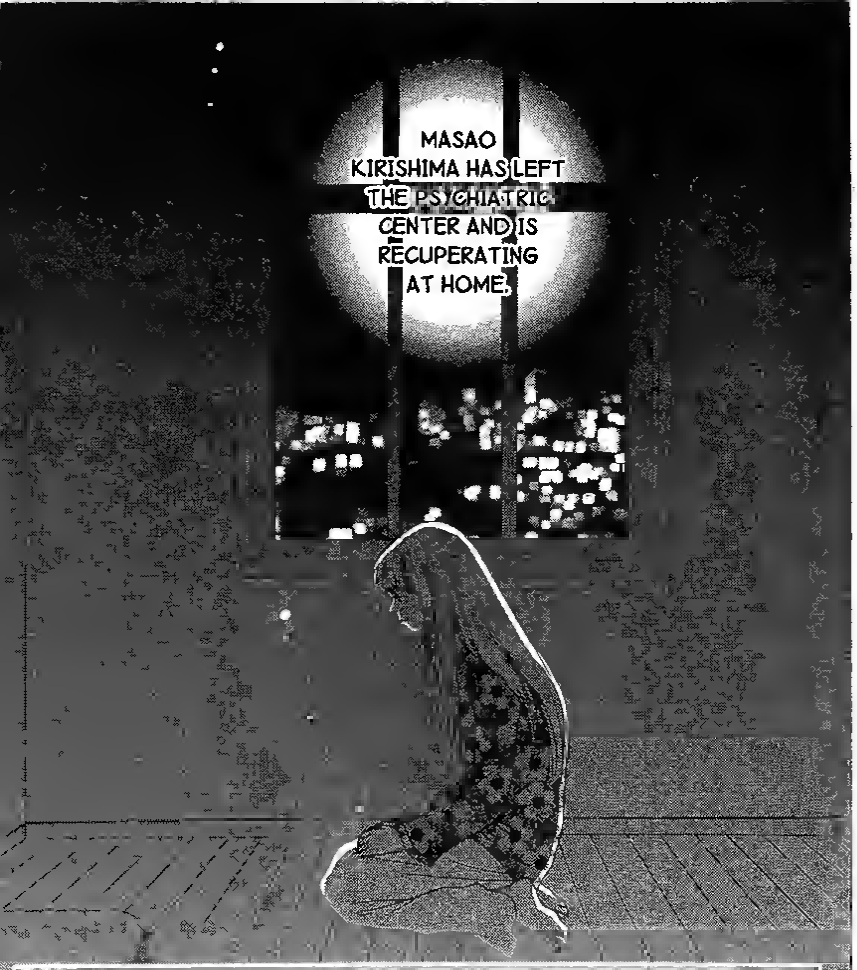


LEGEND OF MARS

Rei Kashino
A high school student who races motorcycles. He has proposed to Kira and after reconciling with his father, Rei moves back home.

Kira Aso
She was raped by her stepfather during junior high. Right after she and Rei decide to get married, her stepfather comes to get her.

The story until now.

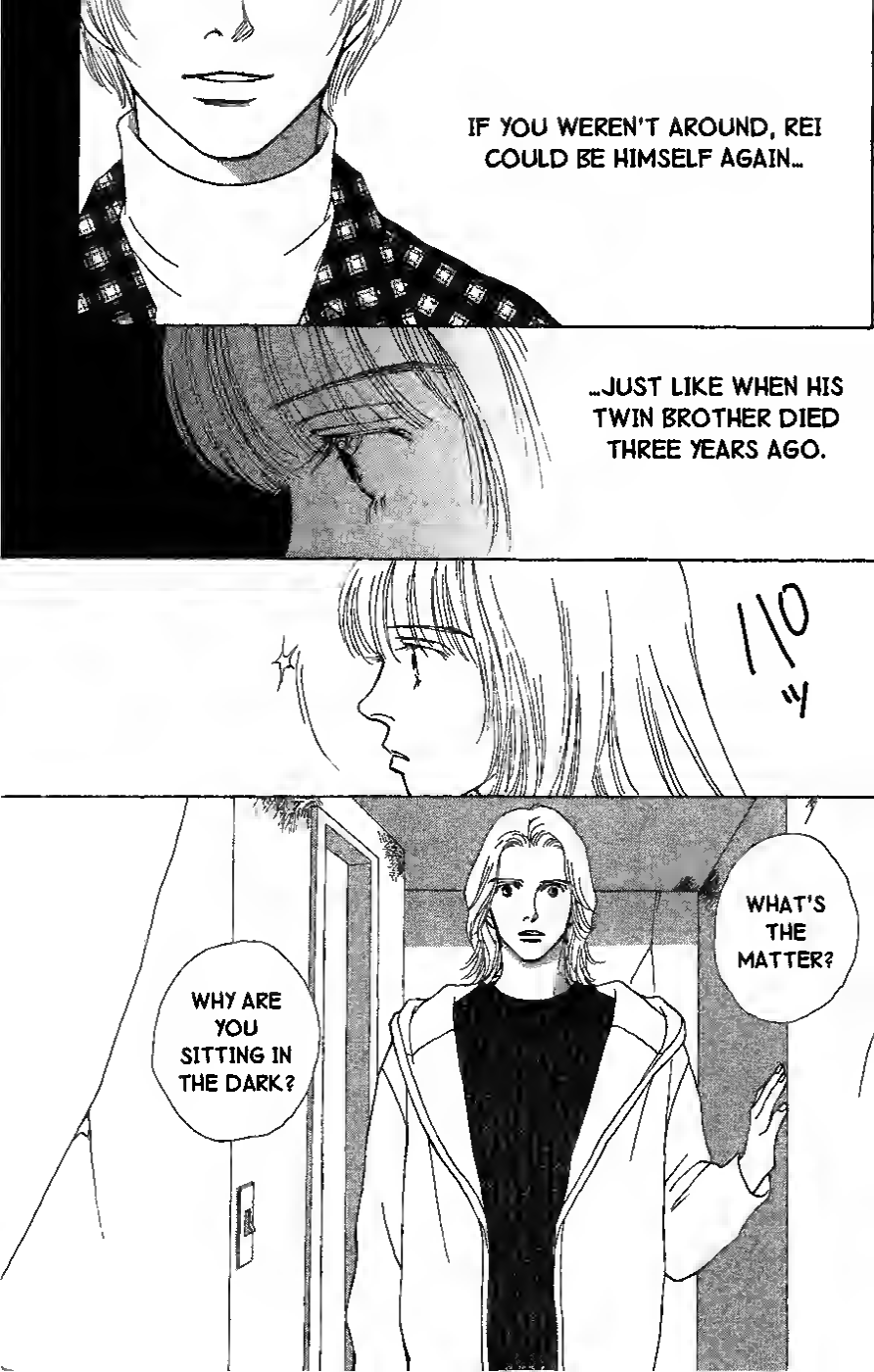
Kira was spellbound by Rei when he kissed a statue of Mars in the art studio. They began dating, and after living together, they decided they wanted to get married. But in Kira's defense, Rei assaults Kira's stepfather, and is faced with attempted murder charges. He goes to his controlling father, who takes care of the situation. But Mr. Kashino's help was only under [illegible]. Rei gets back to racing and quits his job. Kira, [illegible]. Meanwhile, Rei's desperately trying to fit into the corporate world to prove to his father he has what it takes to take over the family business. Knowing Rei is unhappy with his new lifestyle, Kira convinces Rei's father to let him return to the world of racing. Rei's father allows him to ride again but Rei gets into an accident and flips his bike over during a test run. Kira begins to have doubts about marrying Rei. Suddenly, Kira gets a call from Officer Okuda that Masao has left the psychiatric center! Kira panics and is filled with fear that Masao is back.

Masao Kirishima:
He used to adore Rei and tried to kill Kira.

Rei's father:
He's the president of a company called the OAK group. He is not Rei's real father.

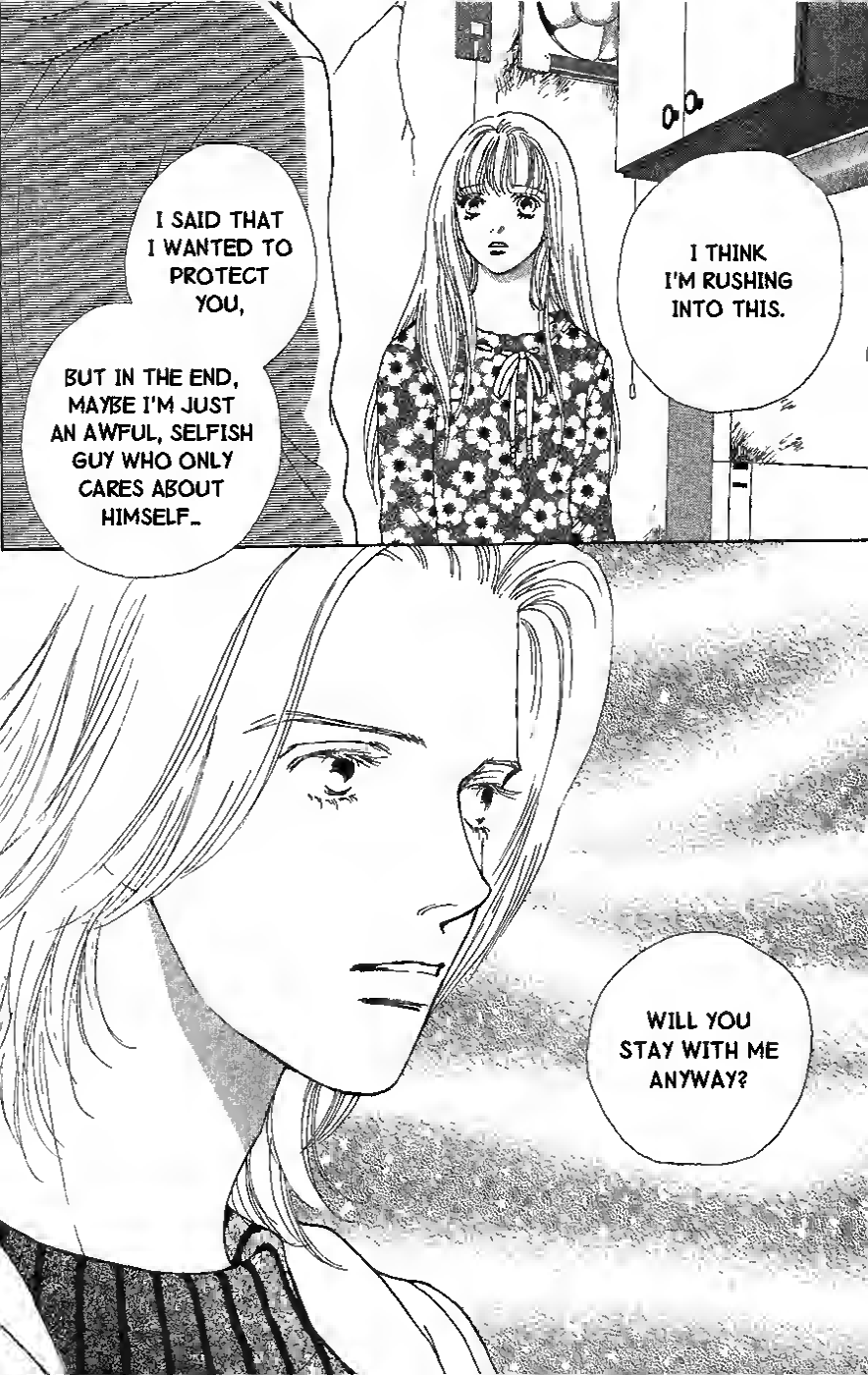
HE'S LEFT THE CENTER?
DOES THAT MEAN HE'S ALL BETTER NOW?
NO...
WHEN IT COMES TO THINGS LIKE THIS, IT'S NOT A MATTER OF GETTING BETTER.
IT'S UP TO THE PATIENT WHEN HE WANTS TO GO HOME.
OF COURSE, HE HAD TO BE DISCHARGED BY THE DOCTOR.

.....
SO... WAS HE OFFICIALLY DIS-CHARGED?
WE'RE NOT PSYCHOL-OGISTS HERE...
...SO WE'RE NOT IN THE POSITION TO MAKE SUCH COMMENTS.
EVEN IF MASAO WAS UP TO SOMETHING...


IF YOU WEREN'T AROUND, REI COULD BE HIMSELF AGAIN...
...JUST LIKE WHEN HIS TWIN BROTHER DIED THREE YEARS AGO.
110
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHY ARE YOU SITTING IN THE DARK?

OH..
KIRA..
DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU BEFORE?
I..I'M SORRY.
I'LL GET DINNER READY.

I WANT YOU TO BE WITH ME NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS.
I, UM..
I'VE BEEN SO FOCUSED ON MYSELF LATELY THAT..
..I HAVEN'T HAD TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON WITH YOU.


I SAID THAT I WANTED TO PROTECT YOU,
BUT IN THE END, MAYBE I'M JUST AN AWFUL, SELFISH GUY WHO ONLY CARES ABOUT HIMSELF...
I THINK I'M RUSHING INTO THIS.
WILL YOU STAY WITH ME ANYWAY?

YOU WON'T BECOME LIKE MY MOTHER, WILL YOU?

WE'VE BEEN
THROUGH
A LOT, REI.

REMEMBER WHEN WE FIRST MET DURING OUR SOPHOMORE YEAR?
NO, IT WAS DURING SPRING BREAK...AT THAT PARK NEAR YOUR HOUSE.
OH. THAT'S RIGHT. DIDN'T YOU TRY TO HIT ON ME?
NO WAY! I WAS JUST ASKING FOR DIRECTIONS!

I WASN'T EXACTLY YOUR TYPE.
フフッ
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
REALLY?
YEAH, YOU WERE INTO THE HOT SEXY GIRLS, REMEMBER?!
GUYS ARE JUST LIKE THAT.
ANYWAY, YOU THOUGHT I WAS TOTALLY SHALLOW!
WELL, YEAH, THERE WERE DEFINITELY TIMES WHEN I THOUGHT THAT!

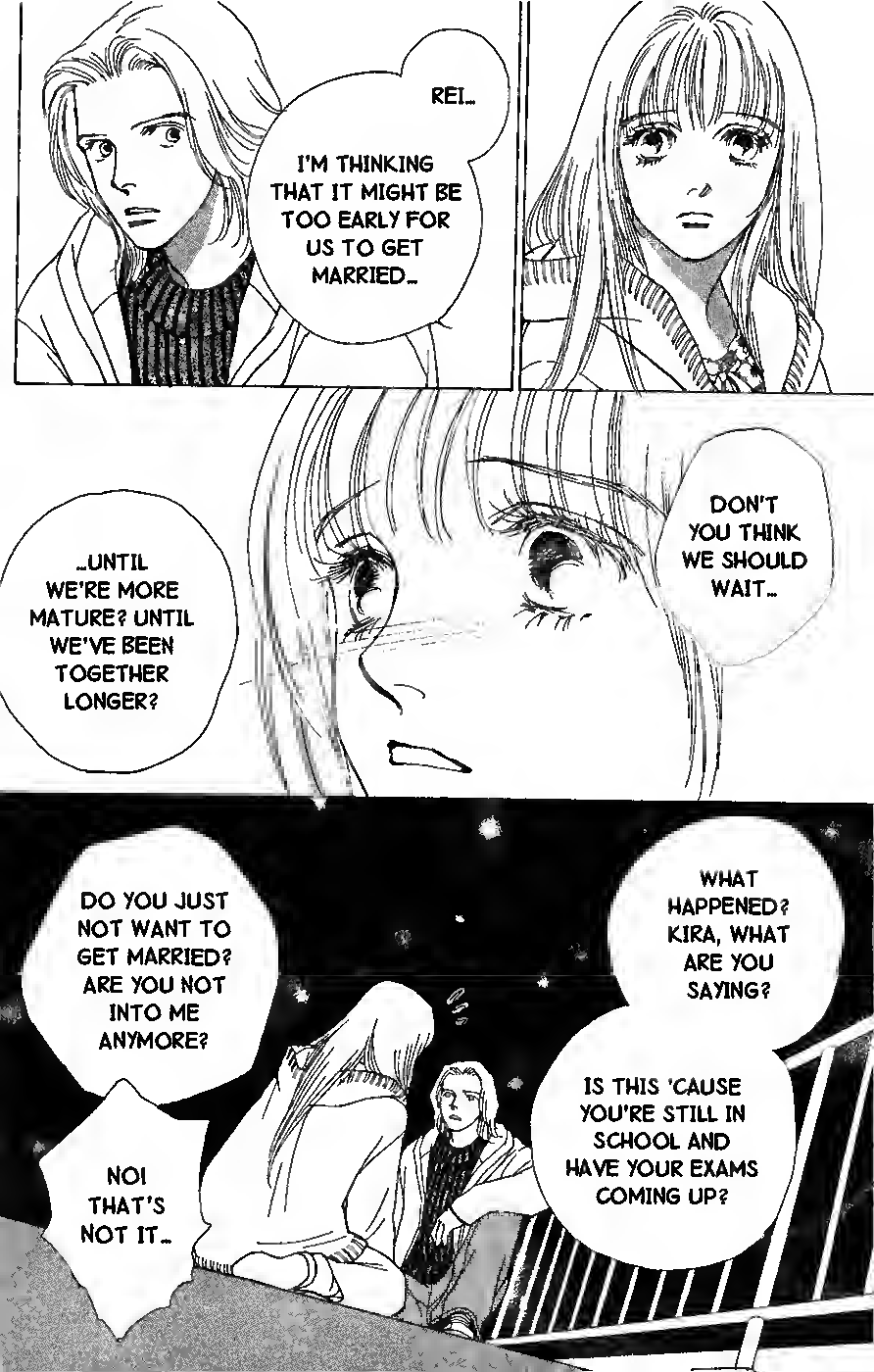
IT'S REALLY FUNNY...
...THE WAY PEOPLE MEET.
TWO YEARS AGO, WE DIDN'T EVEN KNOW EACH OTHER'S NAMES.
BUT NOW WE'RE GAZING AT THE STARS TOGETHER.

I'LL PROTECT YOU.
I WAS PRETTY CUTE BACK THEN.
YOU WERE?!
I WAS STILL CALLING YOU KASHINO BACK THEN.
YEAH, YEAH.
NOW I'VE BECOME THIS REALLY COOL GUY!

YOU'VE GOT A GOOD BODY, YOU'RE TALL AND CUTE...YOU'RE ALMOST PERFECT!
.....
ALL JOKING ASIDE,
YOU ARE A COOL GUY.
WHAT'S IMPORTANT IS NOT THE WAY YOU LOOK BUT..
...HEARING YOU SAY ALL THOSE THINGS.
GOD, EVEN I FEEL A LITTLE EMBARRASSED..
HUH?! THE WAY I LIVE?
...THE WAY YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE.

I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE DRAWN TO YOUR WIT AND YOUR LAID-BACK NATURE..
PLEASE, GIVE REI BACK TO ME..
..I LOVED THE CHILD-LIKE THINGS ABOUT YOU!
REI WAS ALWAYS THE CENTER OF ATTENTION AMONG ALL THE GUYS..
REI..
REI, DUDE!
REI CAN BE UNBELIEVABLY CUNNING AND CRUEL.. HE HAS THIS WAY ABOUT HIM THAT GETS TO PEOPLE.

WHAT'S WRONG?!
YOU SUDDENLY STOPPED TALKING...
KIRA?!
?


REI...
I'M THINKING THAT IT MIGHT BE TOO EARLY FOR US TO GET MARRIED...
DON'T YOU THINK WE SHOULD WAIT...
...UNTIL WE'RE MORE MATURE? UNTIL WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER LONGER?
WHAT HAPPENED? KIRA, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
IS THIS 'CAUSE YOU'RE STILL IN SCHOOL AND HAVE YOUR EXAMS COMING UP?
DO YOU JUST NOT WANT TO GET MARRIED? ARE YOU NOT INTO ME ANYMORE?
NO! THAT'S NOT IT...

WHAT'S UP? WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY SO HUNG UP ON WAITING?
BECAUSE...
...IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO YOU...
...I'LL BE THE FIRST PERSON THEY CALL.

I'M THE CLOSEST TO YOU.
I'M NOT THAT STRONG YET.
I'M FEELING A LITTLE... INSECURE.
KIRA...
IT MAY JUST BE A PIECE OF PAPER. BUT...

REI, I DON'T WANT TO JUST FOLLOW YOU WHEREVER YOU GO.
YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING THAT YOU HAVE TO PROTECT ME...
BUT REALLY, I...

...I'M THE ONE
WHO ALWAYS WANTED TO
PROTECT *YOU*.

SO YOU'RE SERIOUS ABOUT GETTING REGISTERED?
I'M SERIOUS.

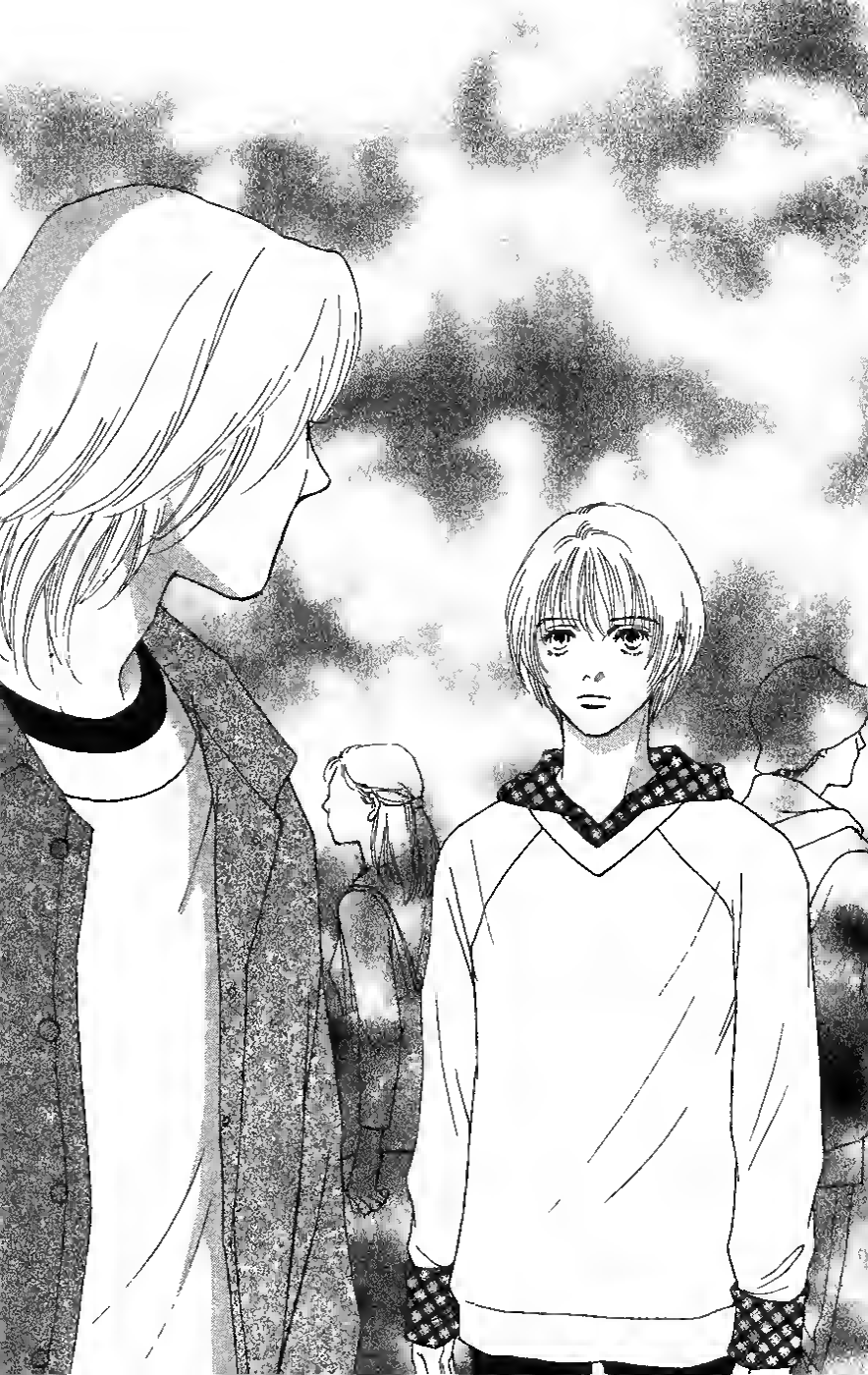
SO KIRA DOESN'T HAVE TO QUIT SCHOOL?!
THANKS TO THE ARRANGEMENTS YOUR FATHER MADE, IT LOOKS LIKE THE SCHOOL IS OKAY WITH IT.
NO. THEY'RE GOING TO LET HER GRADUATE.
WHAT A RELIEF... I'M SO GLAD!
I REALLY WANT KIRA TO GRADUATE...
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HIM RECENTLY, HAVE YOU?
YOU SHOULD TELL YOUR FATHER THAT.

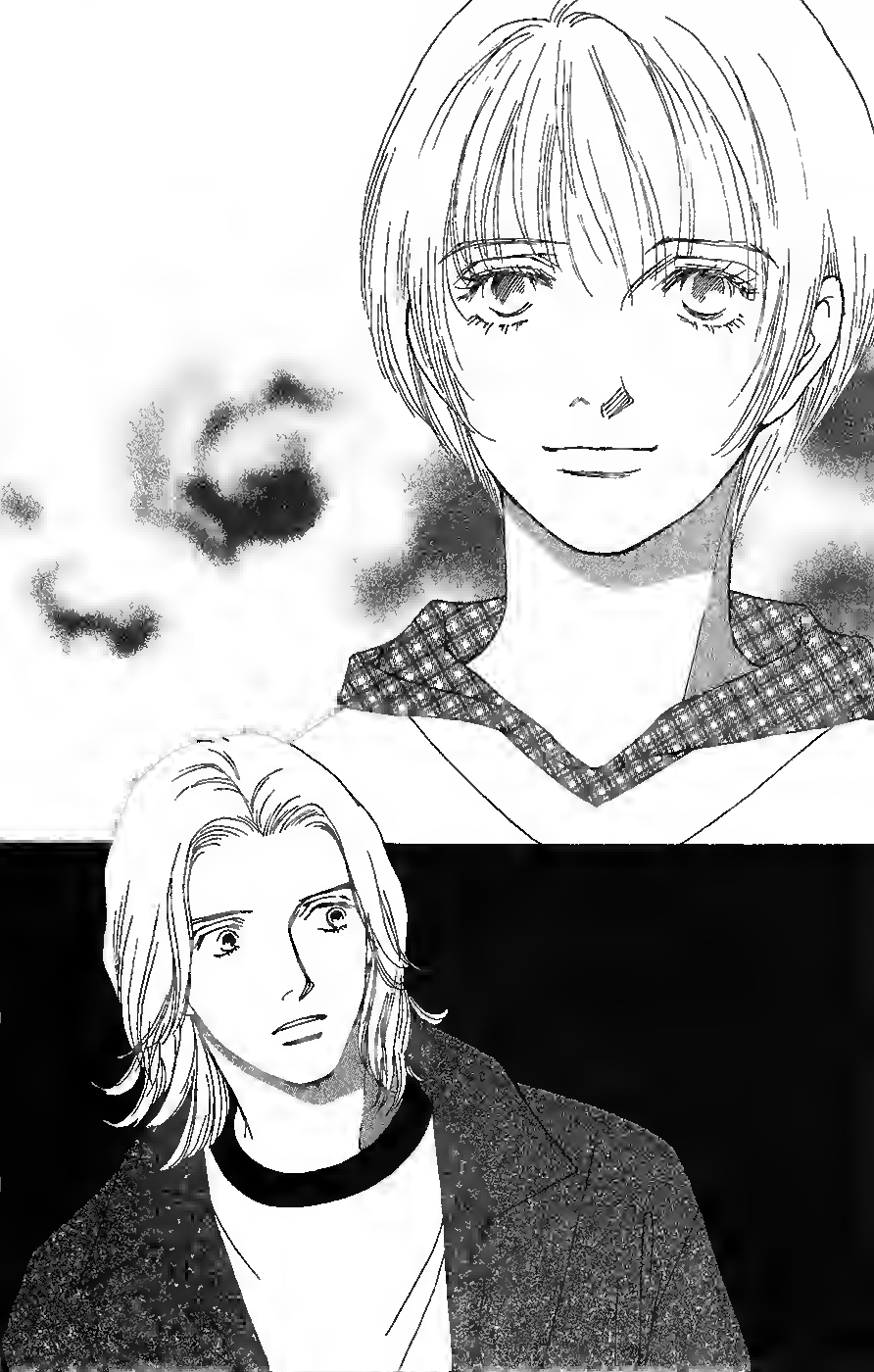
JUST LIKE... WHO?
I WONDER.
DO YOU WANT A RIDE?
I DROVE HERE, SO I CAN DRIVE YOU BACK.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE HIM IN ALL THESE WEIRD WAYS.
?

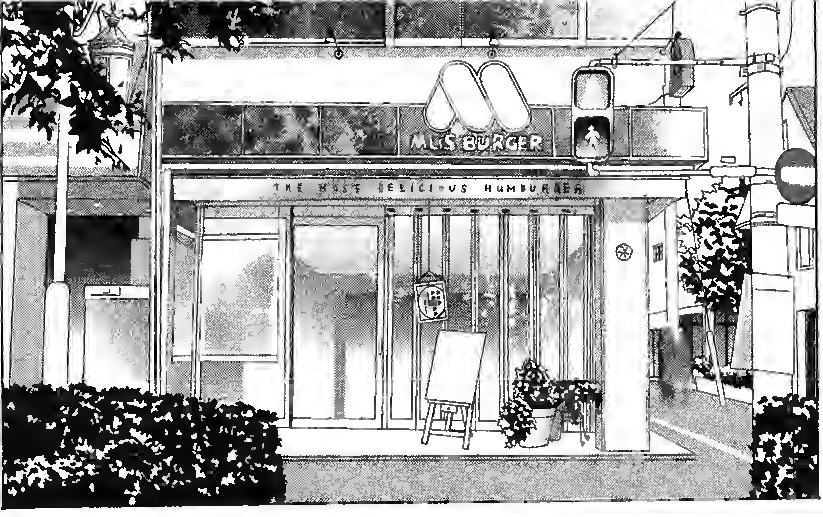
YES, YES.
NOW THAT YOU'RE GOING TO BE A GUARDIAN TO ONE OF THEIR STUDENTS...
ANYWAY, YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND AT LEAST SAY YOUR GOODBYES TO EVERYONE.
OH, GOD...
I BET TACHIKAWA'S GONNA GIVE IT TO ME AGAIN...

MASAO...?!

MS. SONOKO, I'LL GET OUT HERE.
WHAT?
WAIT, REI!
?
THAT HAD TO HAVE BEEN MASAO!






M.L.S BURGER
THE MOST DELICIOUS HAMBURGER

I GUESS YOU GOT OUT OF PSYCHO CAMP.
YEAH, FOR THE TIME BEING, AT LEAST.
IT'S NOT EXACTLY AN INSTITUTION...
...SO WHETHER I'M IN OR OUT, THERE'S NOT A WHOLE LOT OF DIFFERENCE.

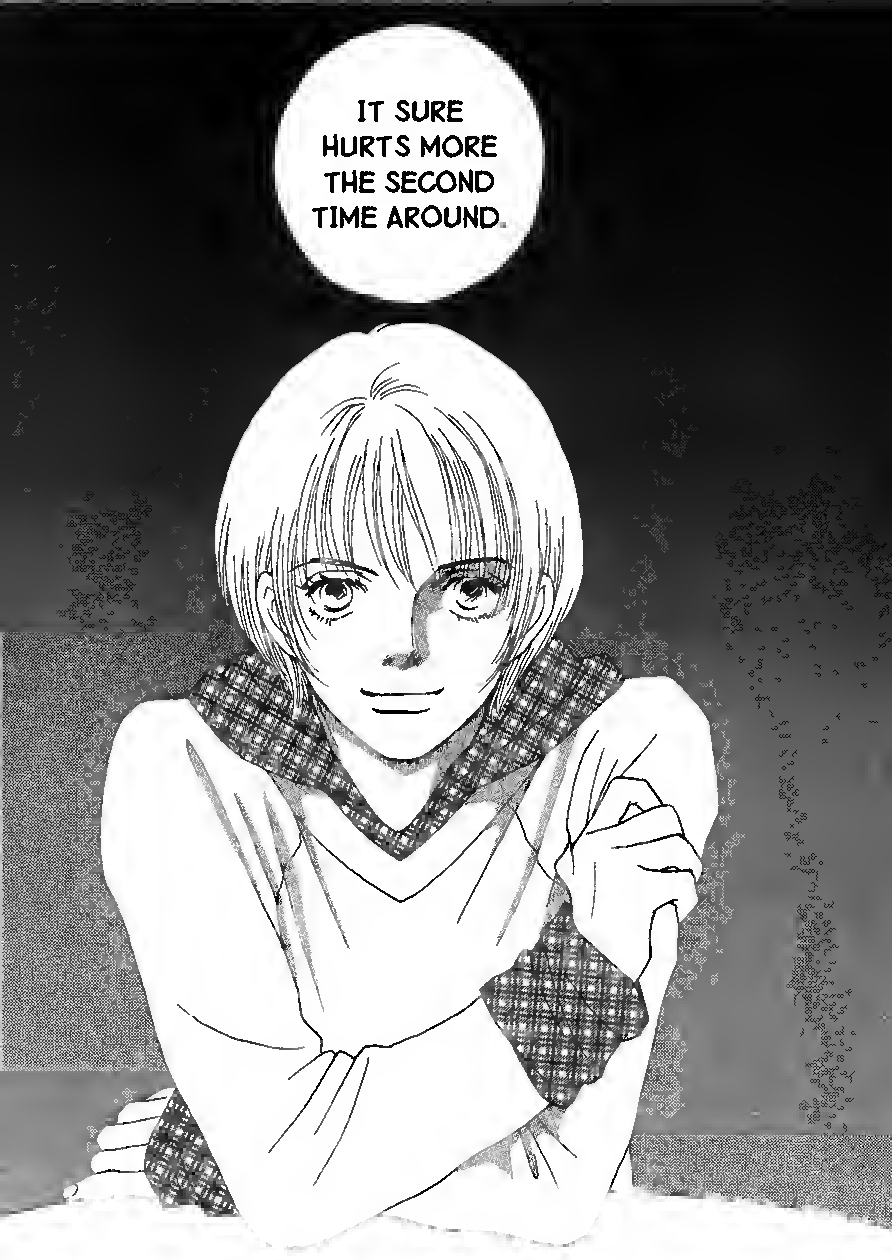
YOU SHOULD KNOW, REI.
I WAS JUST AT THE CENTER RECENTLY.
YEAH, I SAW YOU IN THE COURTYARD.
DON'T TELL ME YOU NEEDED MORE THERAPY.
NO, DUDE.
I JUST WANTED TO VISIT THE DOCTOR WHO TOOK CARE OF ME A LONG TIME AGO.

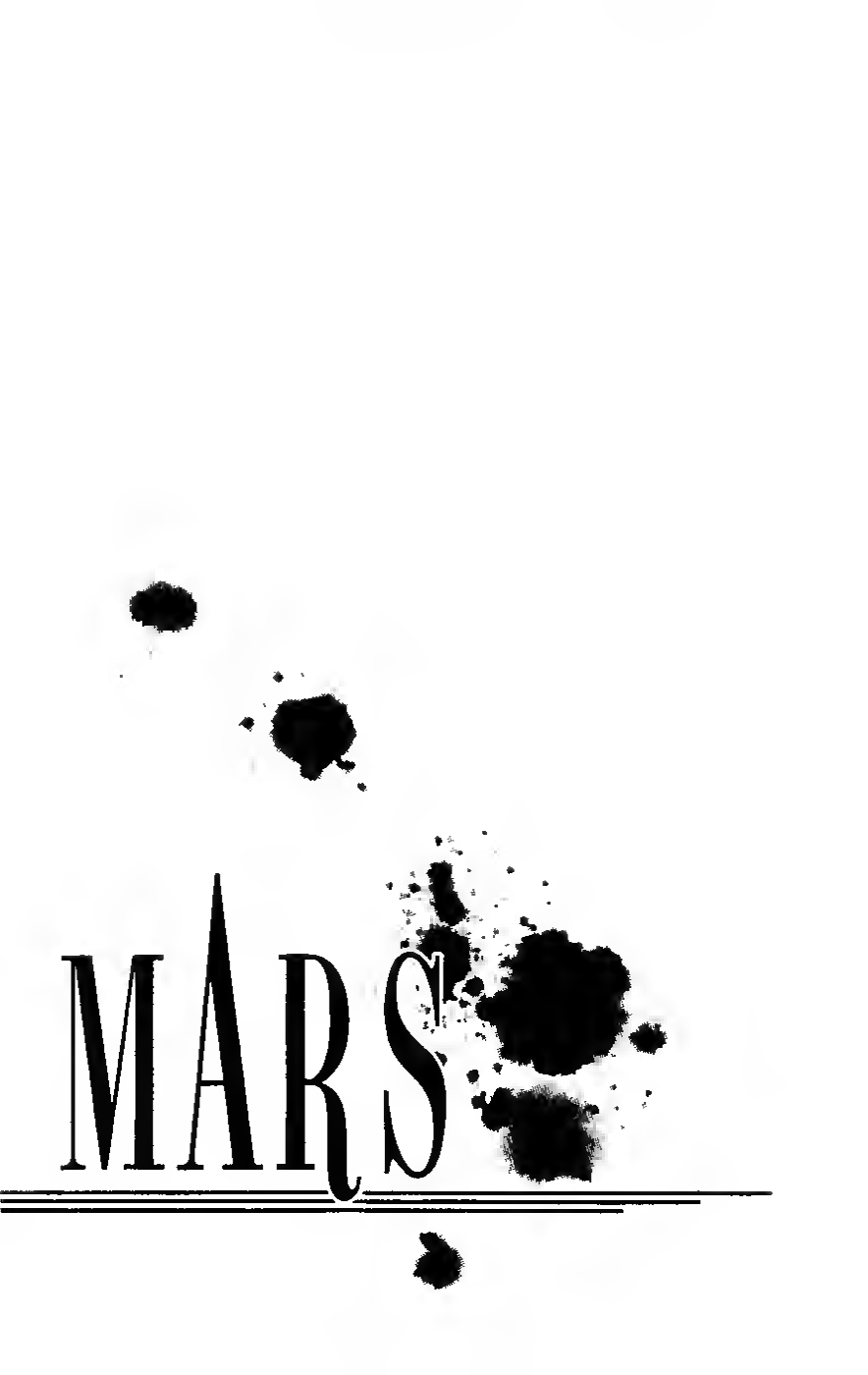
WELL, I GUESS...
...THERE'S NO WAY SOMEONE WHO'S ABOUT TO GET MARRIED WOULD...
HOW DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?!
C'MON... IT'S NOT A SECRET.

UH? HELLO?! I WAS A STUDENT AT WEST HIGH.
YOU TWO WERE A PRETTY FAMOUS COUPLE THERE.
WHO *DIDN'T* KNOW WHAT WAS GOING ON?
AND IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T HAVE MY CONNECTIONS...

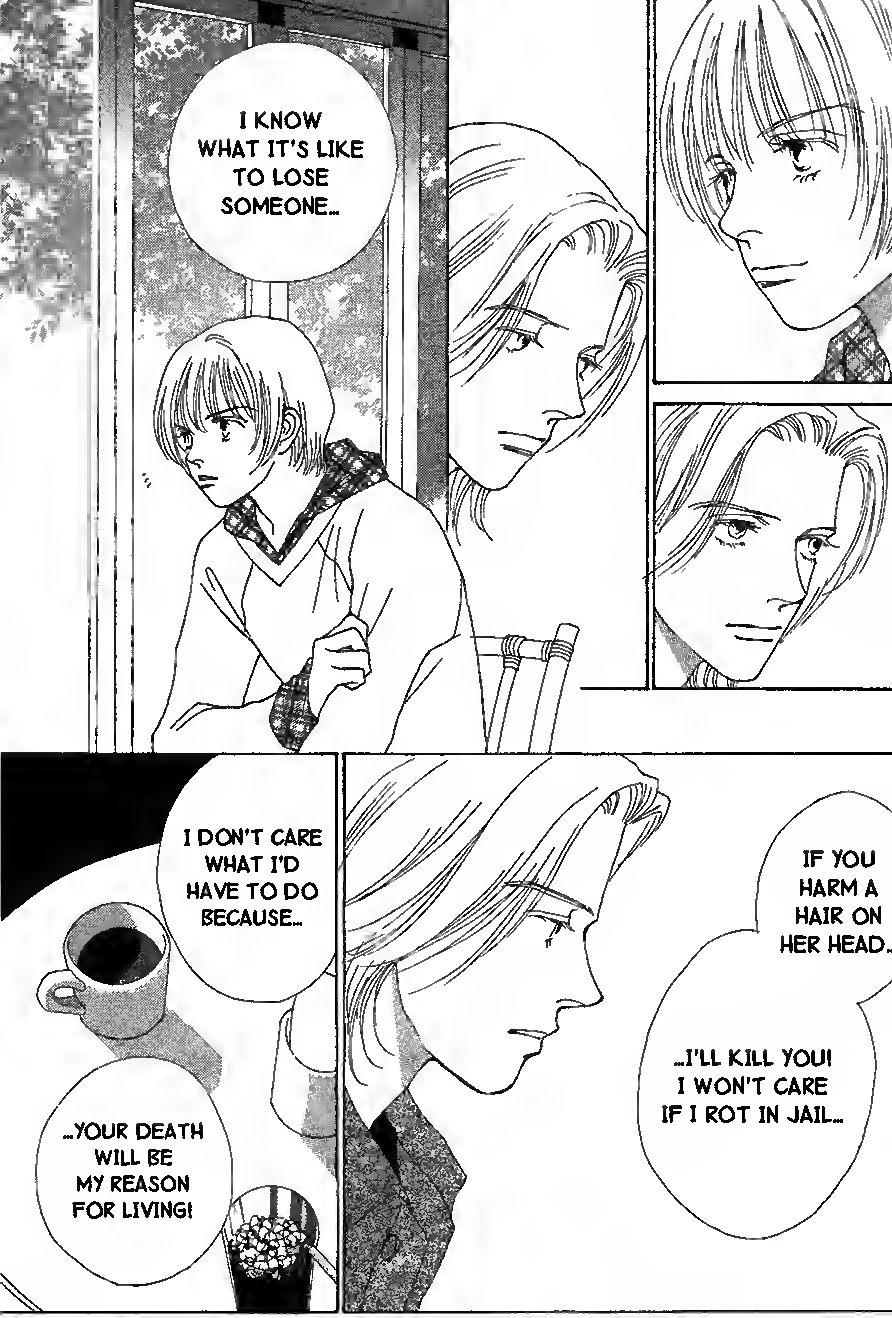
SO, YOU'VE DECIDED TO LET SOMEONE IN, YOU ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT SOMEONE ELSE...
...EVEN AFTER EVERYTHING YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH.

WHAT IF YOU HAD TO GO THROUGH IT AGAIN?


IT SURE
HURTS MORE
THE SECOND
TIME AROUND.


MARS

SO ARE YOU GOING TO TRY TO KILL KIRA AGAIN?


I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO LOSE SOMEONE...
I DON'T CARE WHAT I'D HAVE TO DO BECAUSE...
...YOUR DEATH WILL BE MY REASON FOR LIVING!
IF YOU HARM A HAIR ON HER HEAD...
...I'LL KILL YOU! I WON'T CARE IF I ROT IN JAIL...

BUT...
BUT WHAT?!
IF I LOST KIRA AND KILLED YOU...
...AND STILL KEPT ON LIVING...
...LIFE WOULD SUCK.

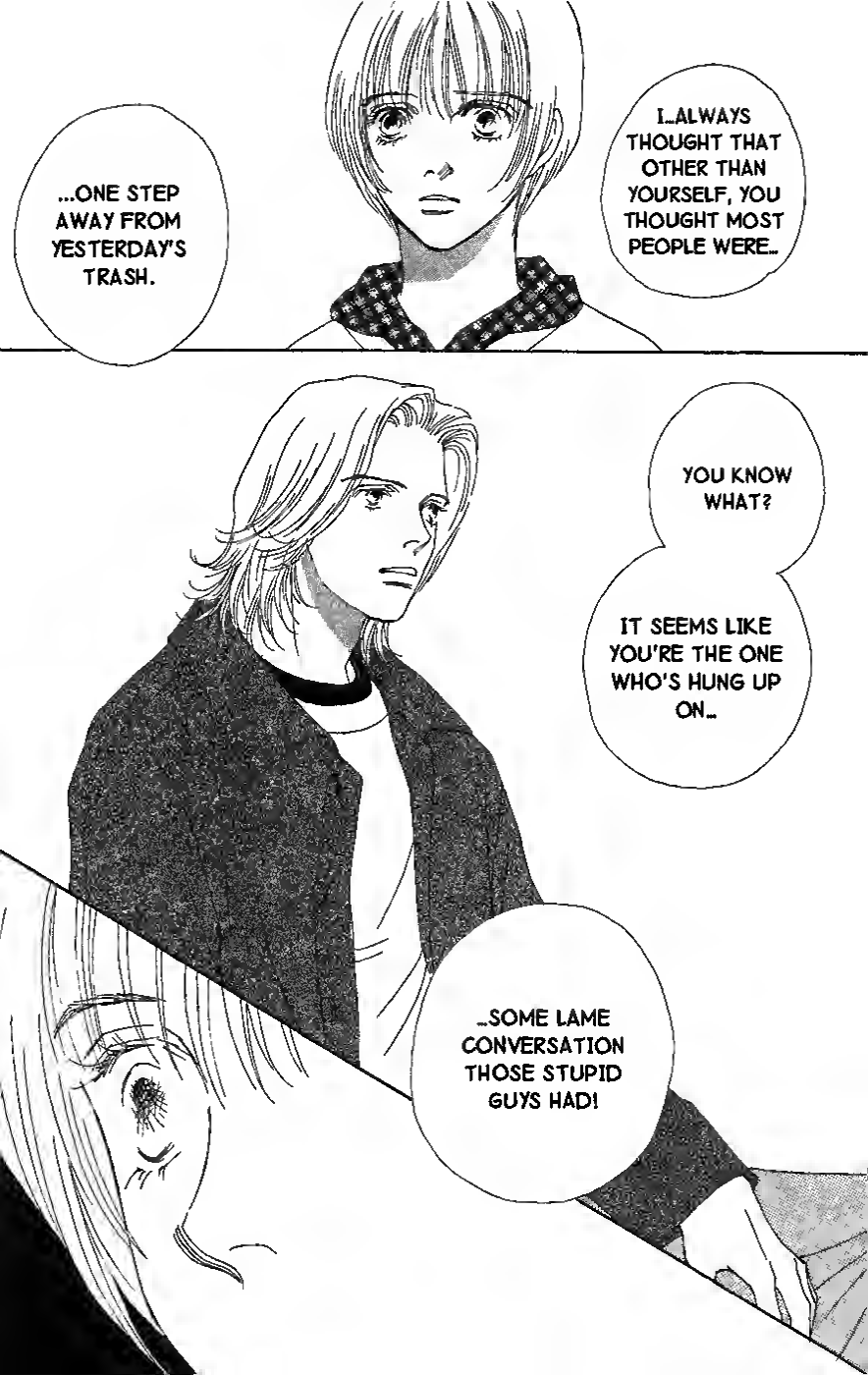
SAD, HUH...?
IT'S SOUNDS SO SIMPLE WHEN YOU PUT IT INTO WORDS.
WHY DO YOU PRETEND TO BE AN ADULT THEN ACT LIKE YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT?
REI, YOU'RE TRIPPIN'.

I'M NOT PRETENDING TO BE AN ADULT!
AND I HAVE PLENTY TO WORRY ABOUT! IT'S JUST...
...NO MATTER WHAT I DO...
...I KNOW I WON'T BE ABLE TO ESCAPE IT.
I TRY REALLY HARD NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
I ALWAYS END UP BLAMING IT ON SOMEONE ELSE OR TAKING IT OUT ON EVERYONE AROUND ME.
BUT WHEN I'M LYING ALONE IN BED AND I CLOSE MY EYES...
...I REALIZE HOW POWERLESS I AM.

STOP IT!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKIN' ABOUT?!
YOU WERE NEVER LIKE THIS BEFORE...!
IT'S STUPID TO BELIEVE IN ALL THOSE OLD-FASHIONED VALUES AND MORALS...
GUYS, IF YOU WANT TO BE FAMOUS, MURDER IS THE WAY TO GO.

THE PRESS WON'T SHOW YOUR FACE!
SO IF WE'RE GOING TO DO IT, ISN'T NOW THE TIME?
YEAH, YOU'LL DEFINITELY GET A REPUTATION.
BESIDES, MURDER IS QUICK AND EASY.
YOU'RE RIGHT! WHILE WE'RE STILL UNDERAGE.
I CAN'T STAND THOSE COWARDLY TYPES.
I CAN'T EVEN STAND BREATHING THE SAME AIR AS THEM.
SO HOW ARE YOU FAMOUS...
...IF THEY DON'T SHOW YOUR FACE OR YOUR NAME?

BUT THE THING IS...
...THOSE GUYS HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE, TOO.
NO MATTER HOW LAME OR HOW USELESS THEY ARE, IT'S A CRIME TO KILL THEM.
I HATE THAT...
...I LIVE IN A WORLD LIKE THIS...
IT'S STRANGE...

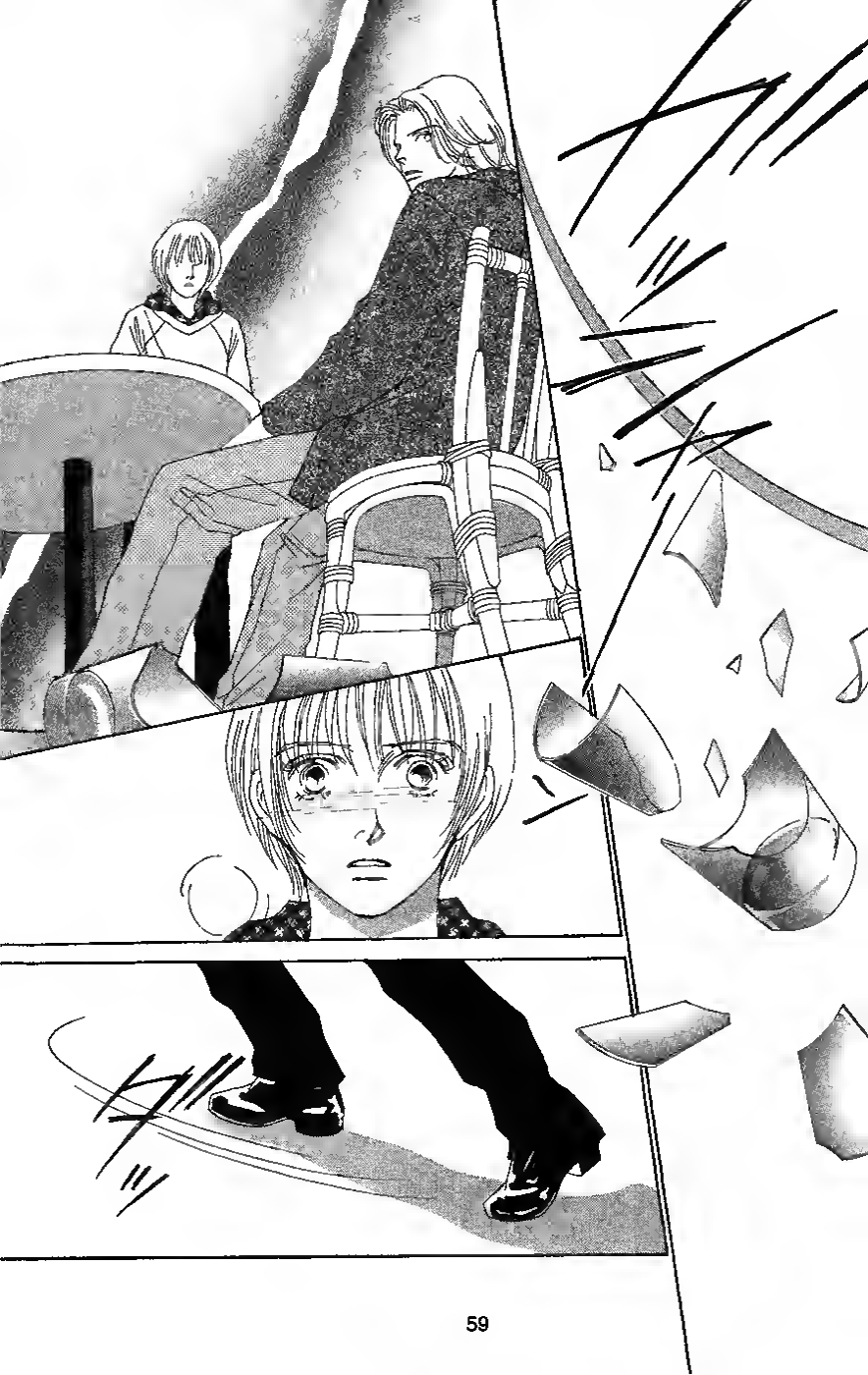

I...ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT OTHER THAN YOURSELF, YOU THOUGHT MOST PEOPLE WERE...
...ONE STEP AWAY FROM YESTERDAY'S TRASH.
YOU KNOW WHAT?
IT SEEMS LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S HUNG UP ON...
...SOME LAME CONVERSATION THOSE STUPID GUYS HAD!

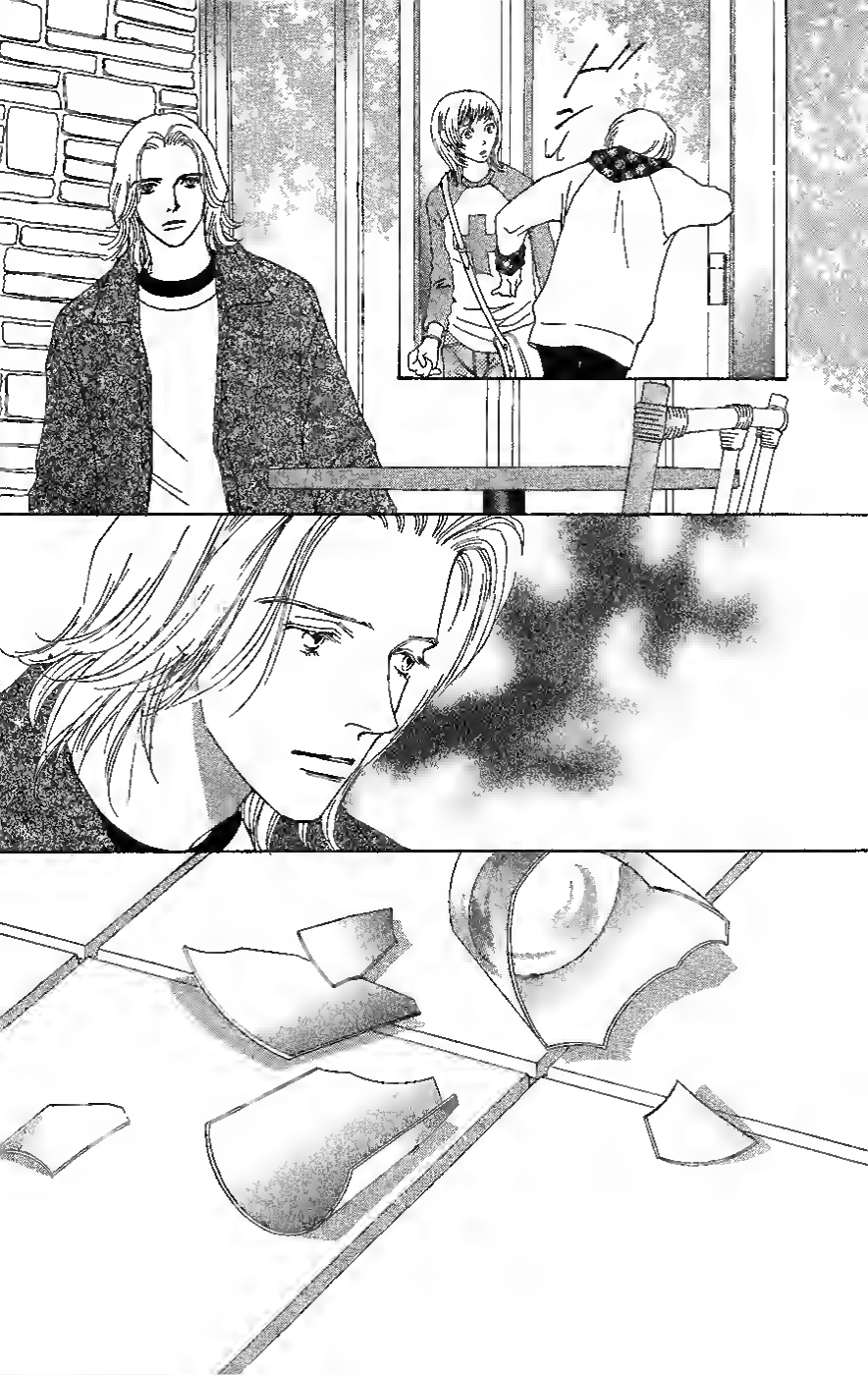
YOU'RE KINDA PATHETIC...

S...SO WHAT ARE YOU SAYING...?!
ARE YOU SAYIN'...
...I'M A WIMP AGAINST THOSE GUYS?!
ARE YOU SAYING I'M A COWARD?!

I DON'T REMEMBER YOU EVER BEING SUCH A MORAL CITIZEN!
HEY, I'M SURPRISED!
I GUESS EVEN YOU CAN RAISE YOUR VOICE SOMETIMES.
!

YOU SEEM HUMAN FOR THE FIRST TIME.
ブルブル

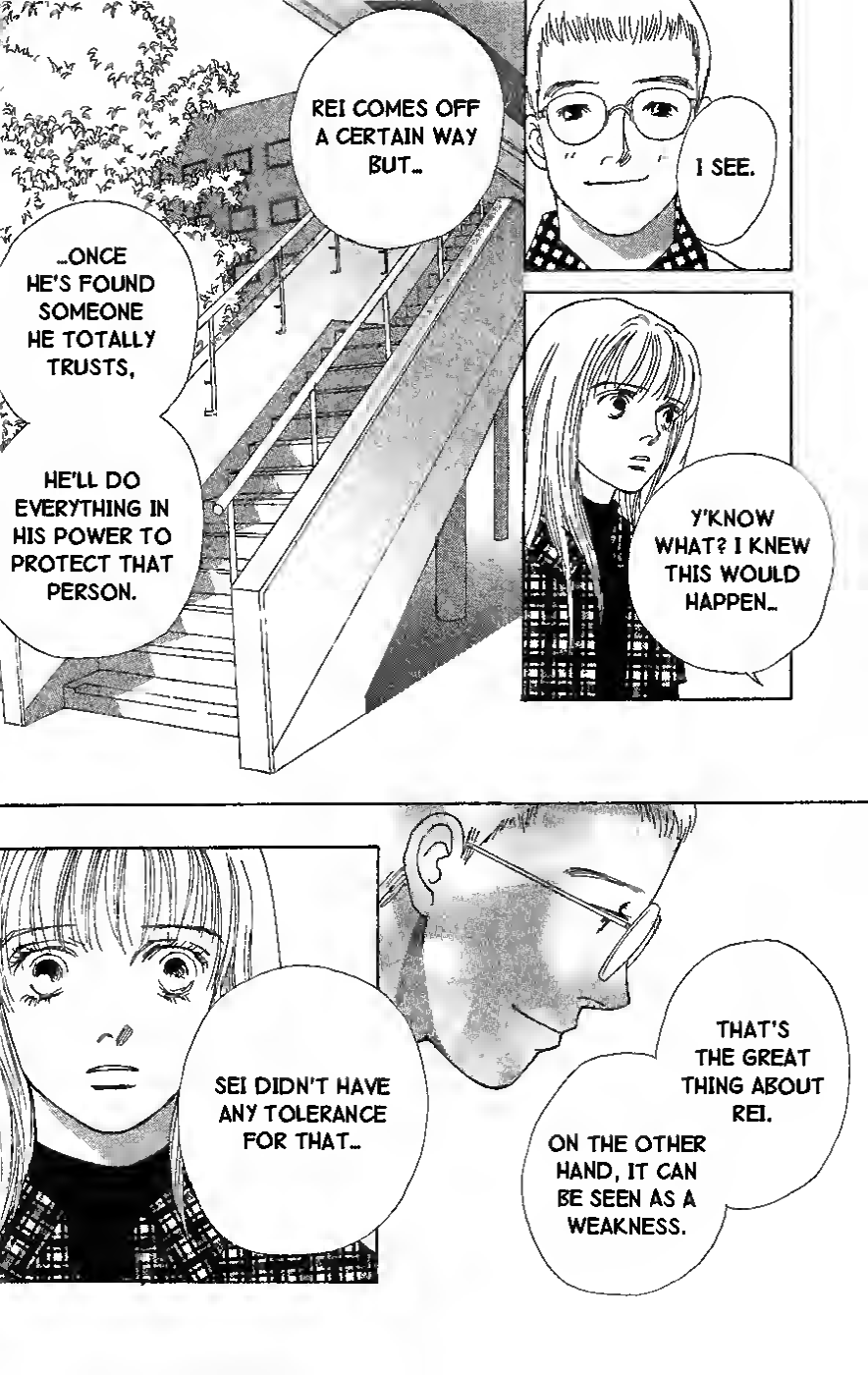




!
...TAKEMURA?!

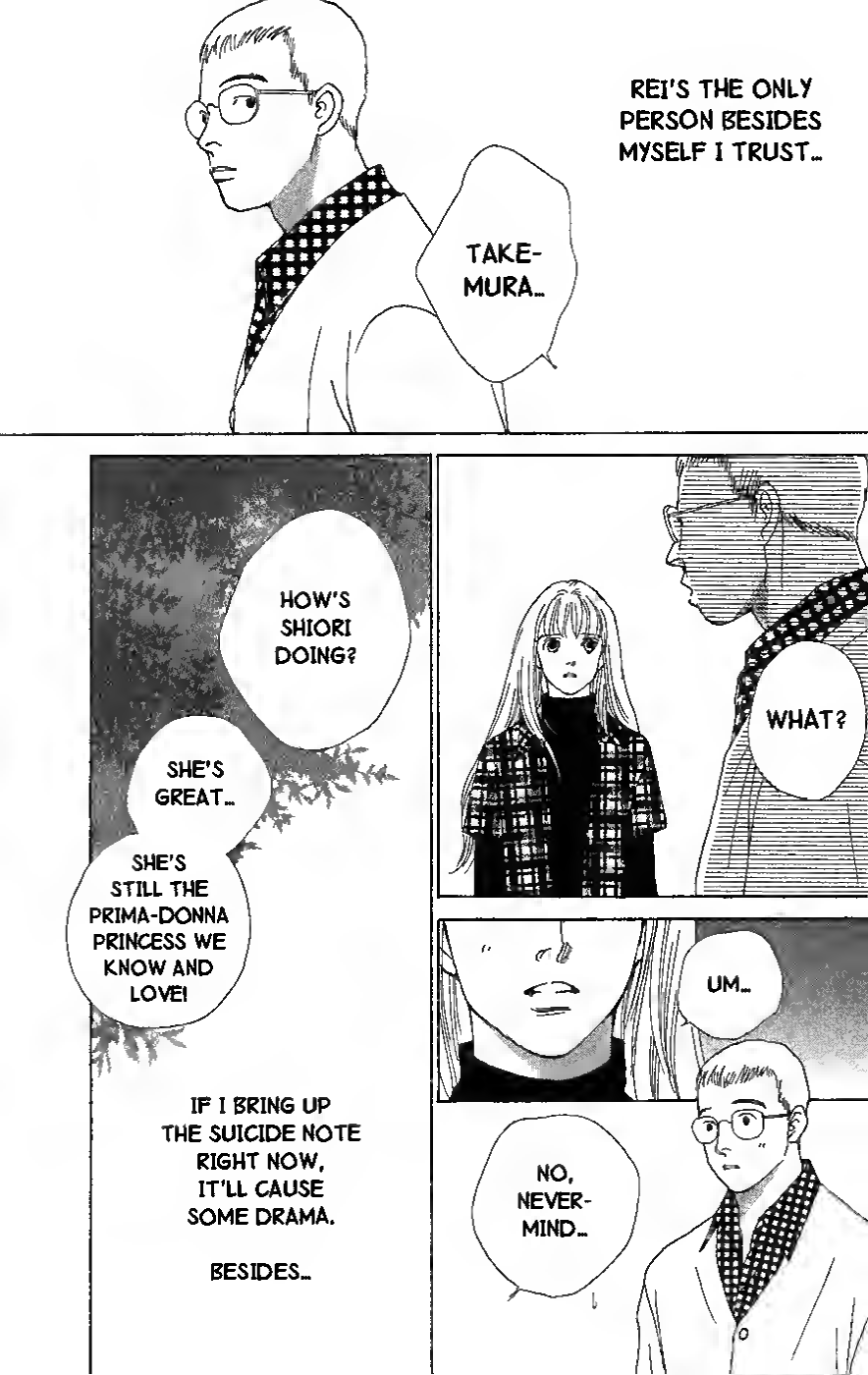
YEAH... IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME. WHAT...A YEAR ALMOST?
SO WE'RE ALMOST DONE. HOW ARE THINGS GOIN'?
SO YOU'RE TAKING YOUR CRAMMING SCHOOL* HERE, TOO?
*CRAMMING SCHOOL - SIMILAR TO SOMETHING LIKE PRINCETON REVIEW OR KAPLAN THAT STUDENTS ATTEND TO STUDY FOR THEIR COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS
VELL, IN MY CASE, M STARTING WITH CHOOLS I KNOW CAN GET IN TO.
MMM... OKAY.
HOW ABOUT YOU? YOU'RE APPLYING TO REALLY GOOD SCHOOLS, AREN'T YOU?
HOW ARE THINGS WITH REI?

WHAAAT?!
MARRIAGE?!
.....
REALLY?!
AND ON REI'S BIRTH-DAY?!
OH...
WELL, IT'S BECAUSE...
I'M SHOCKED.
I CAN'T BELIEVE REI'S SO SERIOUS...
...I TOLD HIM IT'S WHAT I WANTED.
BEING MARRIED WILL GIVE ME THAT PEACE OF MIND I NEED.


REI COMES OFF A CERTAIN WAY BUT...
I SEE.
...ONCE HE'S FOUND SOMEONE HE TOTALLY TRUSTS,
HE'LL DO EVERYTHING IN HIS POWER TO PROTECT THAT PERSON.
Y'KNOW WHAT? I KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN...
SEI DIDN'T HAVE ANY TOLERANCE FOR THAT...
THAT'S THE GREAT THING ABOUT REI.
ON THE OTHER HAND, IT CAN BE SEEN AS A WEAKNESS.

HAVE YOU EVER SEEN HIS PAINTINGS?
SEI WAS REALLY DIFFERENT FROM HIS BROTHER... SEI WAS A HARD-HEAD.
EVEN THOUGH SEI WAS A SHY AND PASSIVE GUY, HE NEVER TRUSTED ANYONE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
HE PAINTED REALLY BEAUTIFUL PAINTINGS.
YEAH. BESIDES PORTRAITS OF REI, I'VE REALLY ONLY SEEN HIS LANDSCAPE STUFF...
WHAT?
THEY'RE SO BEAUTIFUL... THEY'RE KIND OF SCARY.
YEAH. THEY'RE DEFINITELY BEAUTIFUL.

PEOPLE SAY LAKES THAT ARE TOO CLEAN DON'T HAVE MUCH FISH.
AS CLEAN AND STILL AS THEY ARE, THERE'S NO LIFE FORCE.
SEI'S PAINTINGS HAD THAT SAME HOLLOWNESS.
"TO ME, HUMANS ARE JUST MOVING MOUNDS OF FLESH."
"THERE'S NOTHING BEAUTIFUL ABOUT THEM."


REI'S THE ONLY PERSON BESIDES MYSELF I TRUST...
TAKE-MURA...
HOW'S SHIORI DOING?
SHE'S GREAT...
SHE'S STILL THE PRIMA-DONNA PRINCESS WE KNOW AND LOVE!
IF I BRING UP THE SUICIDE NOTE RIGHT NOW, IT'LL CAUSE SOME DRAMA.
BESIDES...
WHAT?
UM...
NO, NEVER-MIND...

WHAT?!
OH, EVEN SHIORI WOULDN'T..
..IF THIS GETS BACK TO REI..
OH BY THE WAY, DON'T SAY ANYTNING ABOUT ME AND REI GETTING MARRIED.
SEI IS DEAD NOW.
IT MIGHT BE BETTER TO KEEP IT QUIET UNTIL YOU GUYS REGISTER..
I'LL KEEP SEI'S SUICIDE NOTE TO MYSELF FOREVER..

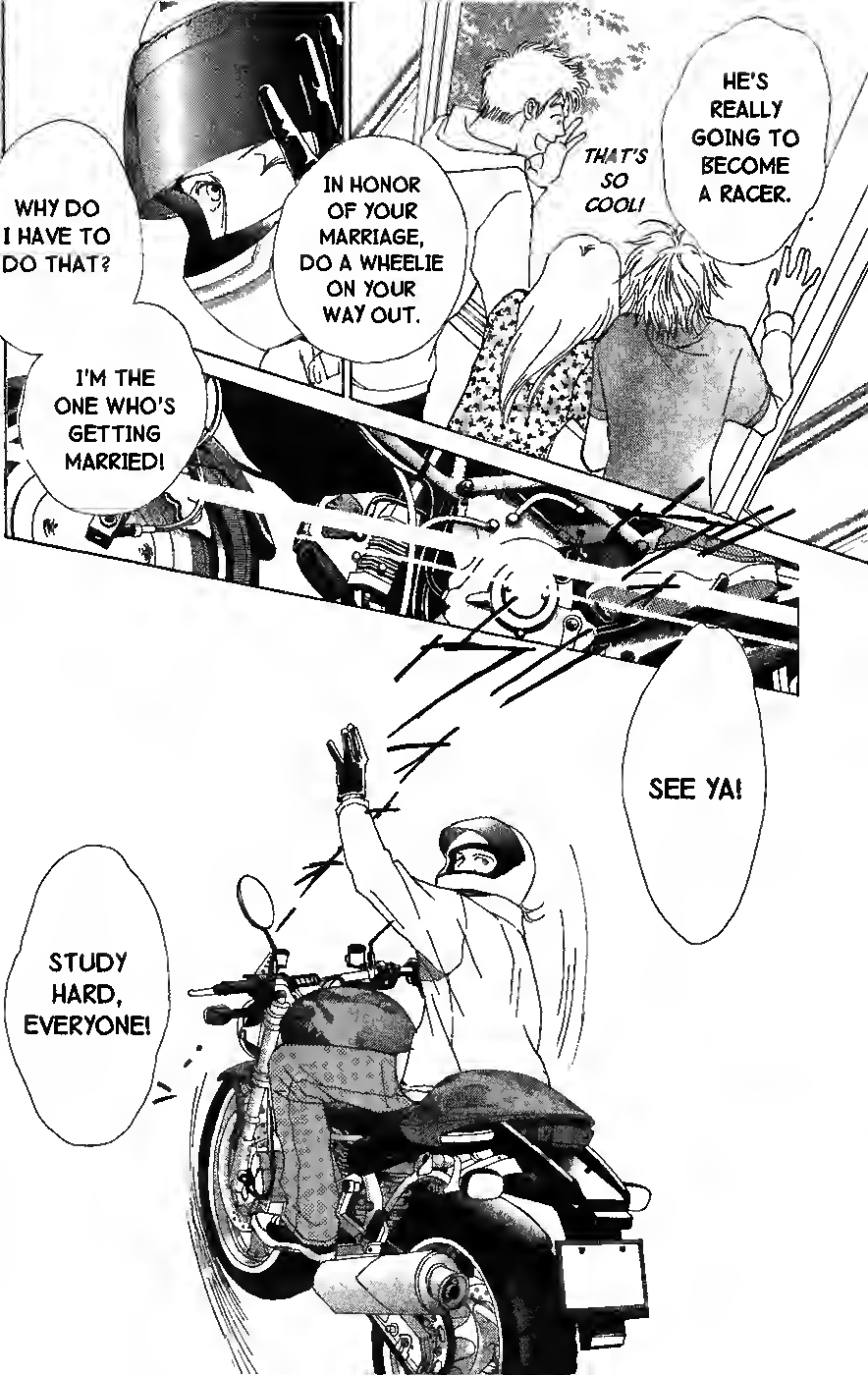
MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
YES, WE'VE RECEIVED IT.
MARRIAGE LICENSE
Date Year Month Day
Husband
Name
Kashino Rei
Birthdate
1982 年 11月 30日
Address
Tokyo Ohda
Wife
Aso
Tokyo

YIPPPPPEEEEEEE!!!!
YOU CAN'T GET MARRIED WHILE YOU'RE STILL IN HIGH SCHOOL!

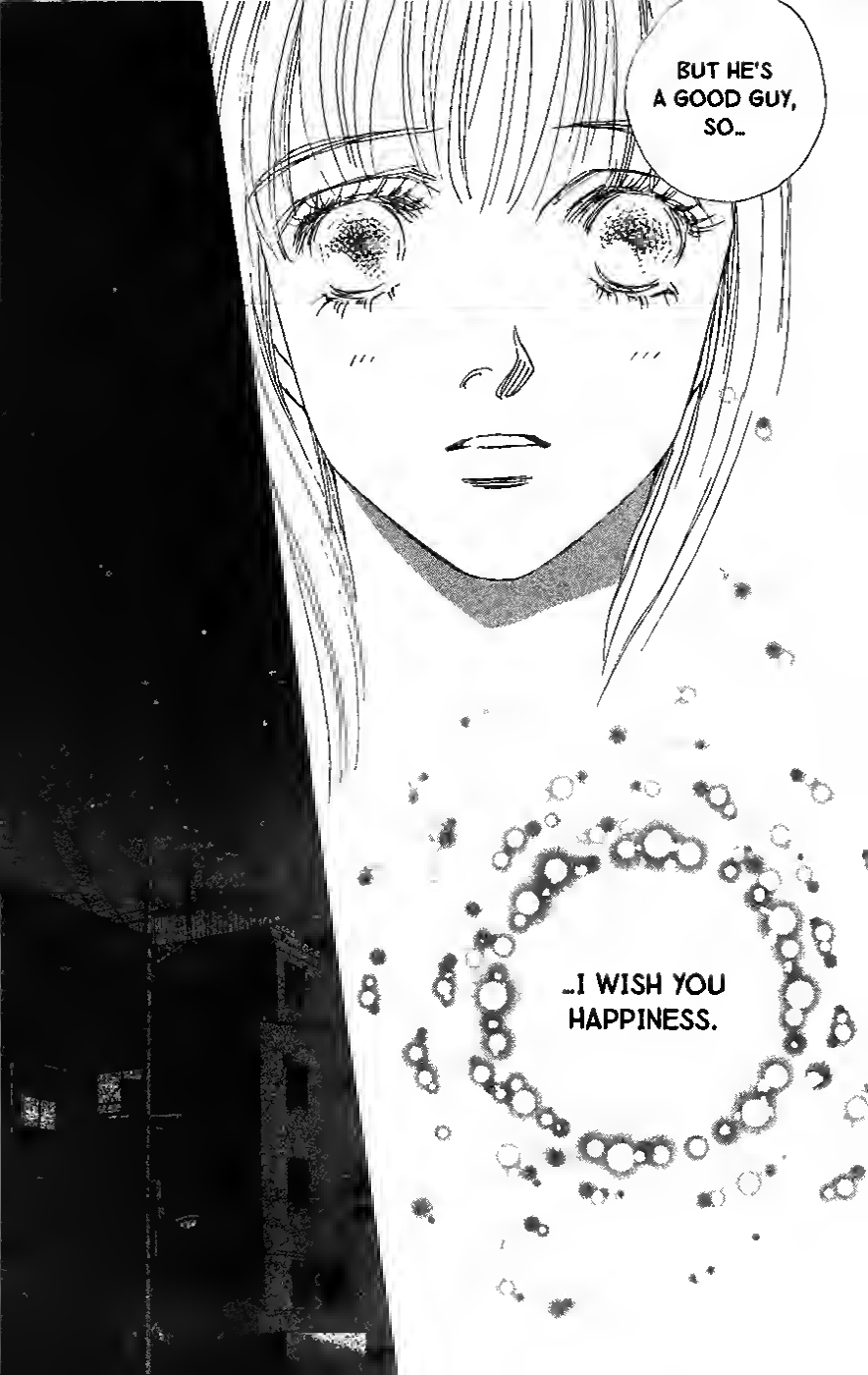
BUT WHAT CAN WE DO
WE'RE ALREADY REGIS-TERED.
.....
I WASN'T ABLE TO GRADUATE...
...BUT I WANT KIRA TO GRADUATE.
A THREE-WAY CON-FERENCE MEETING?
WITH MY DAD IN THE PICTURE, IT'LL BE A FOUR-WAY MEETING.
NO... YOU DON'T HAVE TO ATTEND.
WELL, I GUESS WE'LL CALL YOUR FATHER.
WE'LL NEED TO HAVE A MEETING ABOUT HOW TO HANDLE THIS.
WHY NOT? I'M GOING TO BE HER GUARDIAN!

WITH YOU AROUND, THINGS DON'T GET STRAIGHTENED OUT AS THEY SHOULD.
WHAT? WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO'S LEFT OUT?
PLEASE LEAVE NOW, KASHINO...
HEY, IT'S REI.
OH MY GOD!!! REI!!!!
HEEEY! HOW ARE YOU GUYS?
CAT!

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'RE GETTING MARRIED?!
YEAH, IT'S TRUE. WE JUST REGISTERED.
OH MY GOD, NO!!
NOOOO. GET A DIVORCE RIGHT AWAY!
WE'LL BE WAITING FOREVER.
.....
COME BACK TO SCHOOL, REI!
YEAH. IT'S SO BORING HERE WITHOUT YOU.
DON'T WORRY.
I'LL COME BACK NOT AS REI FROM WEST HIGH, BUT AS REI WHO CONQUERED THE WORLD.


HE'S REALLY GOING TO BECOME A RACER.
THAT'S SO COOL!
IN HONOR OF YOUR MARRIAGE, DO A WHEELIE ON YOUR WAY OUT.
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THAT?
I'M THE ONE WHO'S GETTING MARRIED!
SEE YA!
STUDY HARD, EVERYONE!

HE POPPED A WHEELIE AND WAVED AT US AT THE SAME TIME!
YEAH...
DID YOU SEE THAT?
NEW YORK 42ST
AND WHILE TURNING AROUND!
JEEZ. HE REALLY KNOWS HOW TO STIR THINGS UP.
IT'S GOING TO BE TOUGH, GOING FOR-WARD...


BUT HE'S A GOOD GUY, SO..
..I WISH YOU HAPPINESS.

CHEEEEERS!
TO YOUR FUTURE HAPPINESS...
THANK YOU!
CONGRATULATIONS, KIRA!
UM... THE NEW GROOM ISN'T HERE YET...
THAT'S OKAY.
WE'LL JUST DO ANOTHER TOAST LATER.
WELL, THIS IS JUST FOR THE TIME BEING.

HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE GOING AROUND THANKING EVERYONE WHO HELPED US OUT...
HEY, THE IKURA'S MINE!
OOOH, IT'S SUSHI.
BUT WHERE IS REI...
...ON SUCH A HAPPY DAY?
プルルル...
REI?!
I'M SORRY.
I GOT CAUGHT UP AT KATAYA-MA'S HOUSE.
I'M HEADING HOME NOW.
OH MY GOD! HURRY UP AND COME HOME! WE MISS YOU!
ギャーーー!!

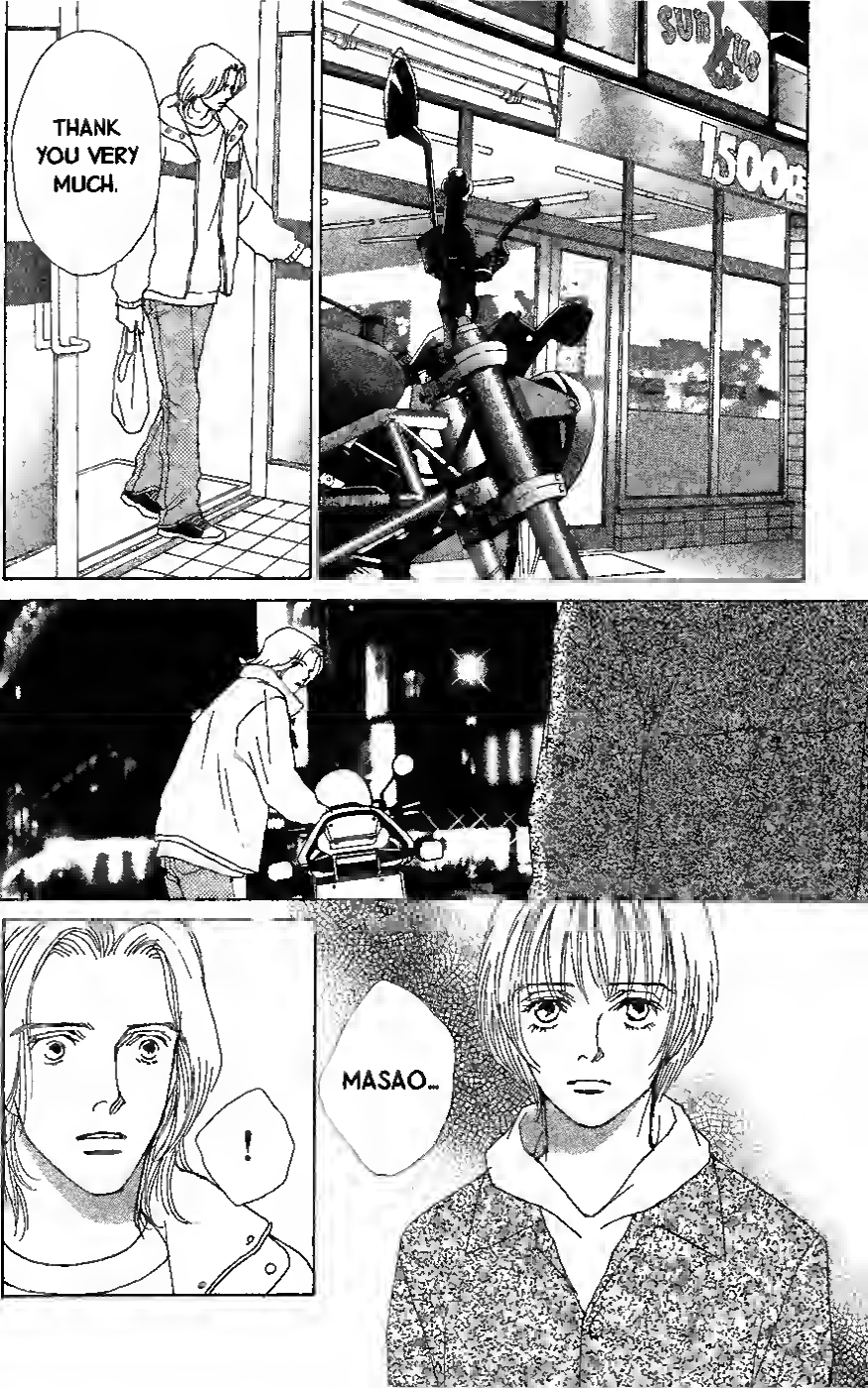
S...SORRY. ALL OF OUR FRIENDS ARE HERE RIGHT NOW.
WHAT ARE THEY DOING THERE?
WELL... CELEBRATING OUR WEDDING.
STU-PID!
THEY'RE JUST USING US TO DRINK AND PARTY UP.
SEND THEM HOME RIGHT NOW!
I CAN'T SEND THEM HOME!
I'M HAVING FUN RIGHT NOW!

WHATEVER THE REASON...
...IT'S REALLY TOUCHING THAT ALL THESE PEOPLE GOT TOGETHER JUST FOR US.
IT MAKES ME FEEL REALLY GOOD THAT PEOPLE WOULD DROP EVERYTHING TO HANG OUT WITH US.
I WAS ALONE FOR SO LONG THAT I NEEDED TO BE AROUND FRIENDS AGAIN.
.....

THIS IS THE BEST GIFT YOU COULD'VE EVER GIVEN ME.
HEY, KIRA.
WE'RE OUT OF SOY SAUCE.
CAN YOU ASK REI TO PICK SOME UP?
DID YOU HEAR THAT?
CAN YOU BUY SOME SOY SAUCE ON YOUR WAY HOME?
BZZZ...
.....

KIRA,
HERE...
WE ALL CHIPPED IN TO GET THIS.
ANTIQUE LACE?

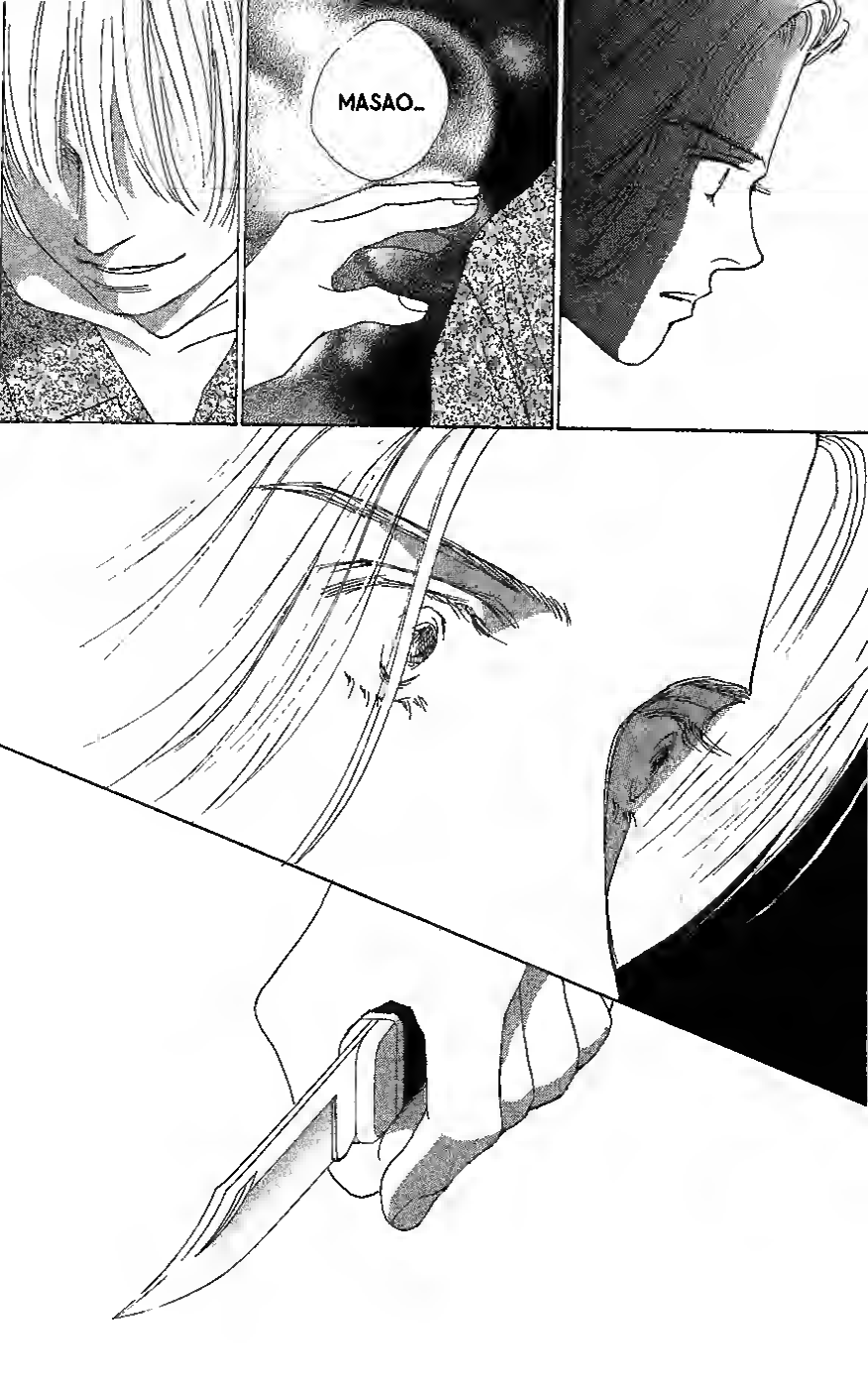
I WANTED TO GET YOU FLOWERS.
HARUMI PICKED IT OUT FOR YOU AS A KEEPSAKE.
YOU CAN USE IT AS YOUR BRIDAL VEIL!
YOU GUYS...


THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
SUN LIFE
1500円
!
MASAO..

WHAT'S WRONG?
HEY...
I CAN'T DO THIS ANYMORE_
I FINALLY REALIZE_
WHAT KIND OF PERSON I AM

I'M A COWARD, A BAD PERSON.
I WAS BLINDED BY MY OWN WEAKNESS.
I TOOK IT OUT ON THE WORLD.
.....
AND THEN THE BAR FROM THE OTHER NIGHT

I'M SCARED..
..TO BE ALONE.
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
NOBODY WANTS TO BE CLOSE TO SOMEONE LIKE ME.
I NEVER FELT THIS WAY BEFORE..
I'M REALLY SCARED I WILL END UP ALONE.


MASAO...

IT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FELL FOR THAT!

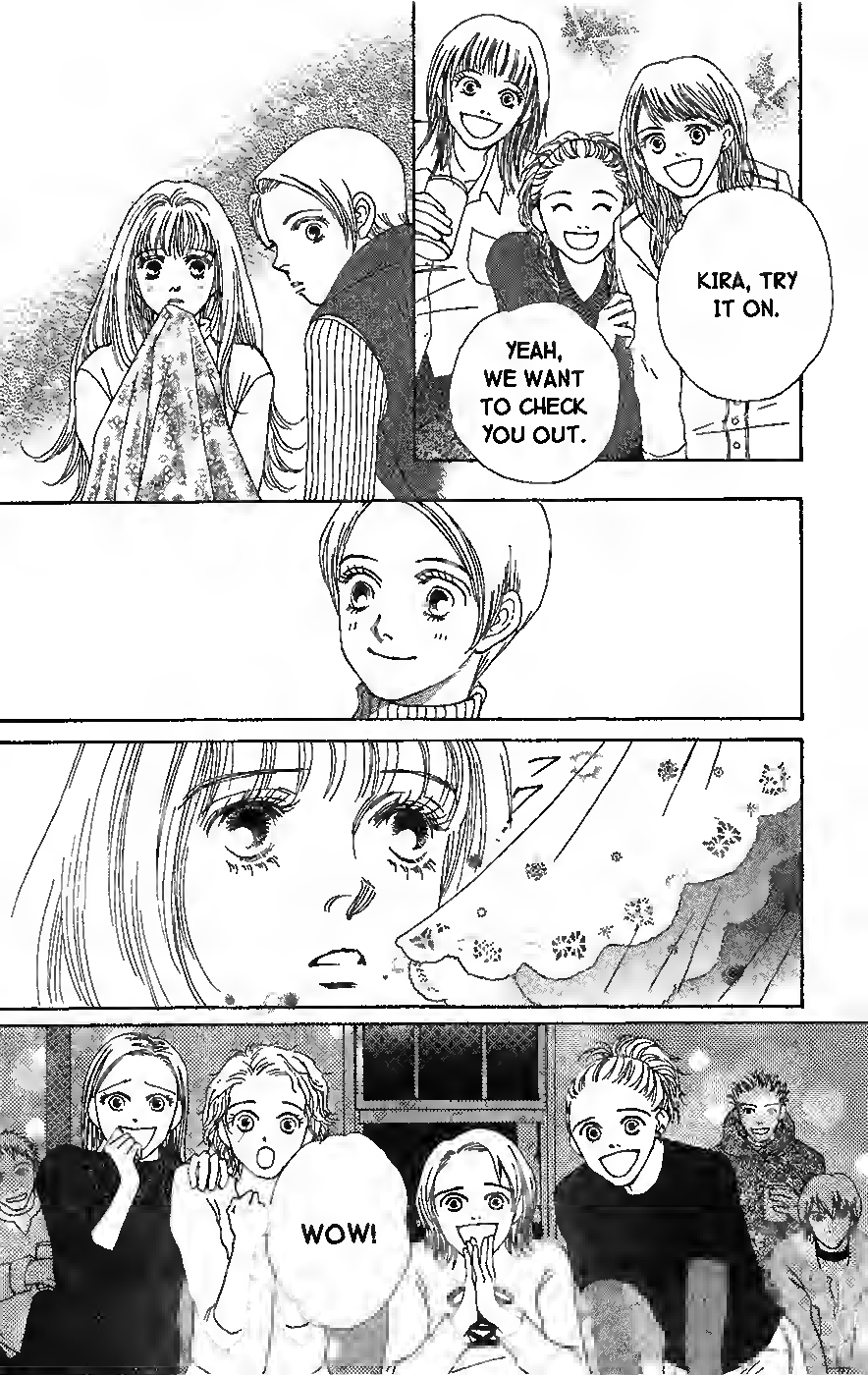
WHY...?
HEY, PAYBACK'S A BITCH. THIS IS WHAT YOU GET FOR MAKING FUN OF ME!

WHAT DO YOU REALLY KNOW ABOUT ME?
YOU'RE JUST A MUSCLE-HEAD WITHOUT ANY REAL TALENT.

YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO JUDGE ME!
!

!

THANK YOU, EVERYONE... THIS MEANT SO MUCH TO ME!
I CAN'T BELIEVE I GOT SUCH A NICE GIFT.
IT'S LIKE A DREAM...


KIRA, TRY IT ON.
YEAH, WE WANT TO CHECK YOU OUT.
WOW!

KIRA IS A BRIDE...
SO PRETTY
YOU LOOK LIKE A REAL BRIDE!

A WEDDING!
HEY, WHY DON'T WE JUST HAVE THE WEDDING CEREMONY NOW?
!
EVERYONE'S HERE!
LET'S HAVE A WEDDING FOR KIRA AND REI!
OH MY GOD, WITH RINGS AND EVERYTHING?!
GOOD IDEA!
THAT SOUNDS COOL.
STUPID! VE DON'T HAVE MONEY TO BUY RINGS!
BUT WHAT'S REI GONNA DO? DOES HE HAVE A SUIT?
YEAH, IT'S THE THOUGHT THAT COUNTS.
WHO CARES? WE CAN PRETEND.

BUT HE'S A NEWLYWED. I WANT TO SEE HIM ALL DECKED OUT.
HE'D LOOK AWESOME IN ARMANI OR PRADA.
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?
HE'S A GUY.
.....
HE'LL LOOK JUST LIKE A MAITRÊ D' SPIFFED UP LIKE THAT!
TOTALLY YOU GUYS!!!
YEAH...
HE CALLED AWHILE AGO, SO HE SHOULD BE HOME SOON.
REI'S TAKING SO LONG...

SO?
HOW DOES IT FEEL TO BE DYING?
EVEN YOU CAN'T SIT THERE ALL COOL NOW, CAN YOU?
フッ
IT'S SO FUNNY..
..THAT A LOSER LIKE ME CAN HAVE CONTROL OVER SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE.
ME, WHO'S BEEN RIDICULED MY WHOLE LIFE AS A MAJOR WEAKLING!

NO MATTER HOW STRON PEOPLE CLAI TO BE...
...THEY'RE JUST WEAK WHEN THEY'RE DYING!
I'VE WAITED MY WHOLE LIFE FOR THIS MOMENT.
WHAT ARE YOU SMILING FOR?
WHAT THE HELL'S WRONG WITH YOU?!
YOU SHOULD BE BEGGING FOR YOUR LIFE...
...LIKE YUJI AOKI!
I GUESS...
...THAT'S REALLY WHAT YOU'RE ALL ABOUT...
...JUST LIKE AOKI.

Y' KNOW WHAT, DUDE? YOU'RE JUST A WIMP WHO CRIES LIKE A CHILD 'CAUSE YOU CAN'T GET WHAT YOU WANT.
JUST LIKE YUJI AOKI, WHO YOU SCREWED OVER.
YOU'RE EXACTLY THE SAME...
SHUT UP!!!!!

SHUT UP!
SHUT UP! SHUT UP!

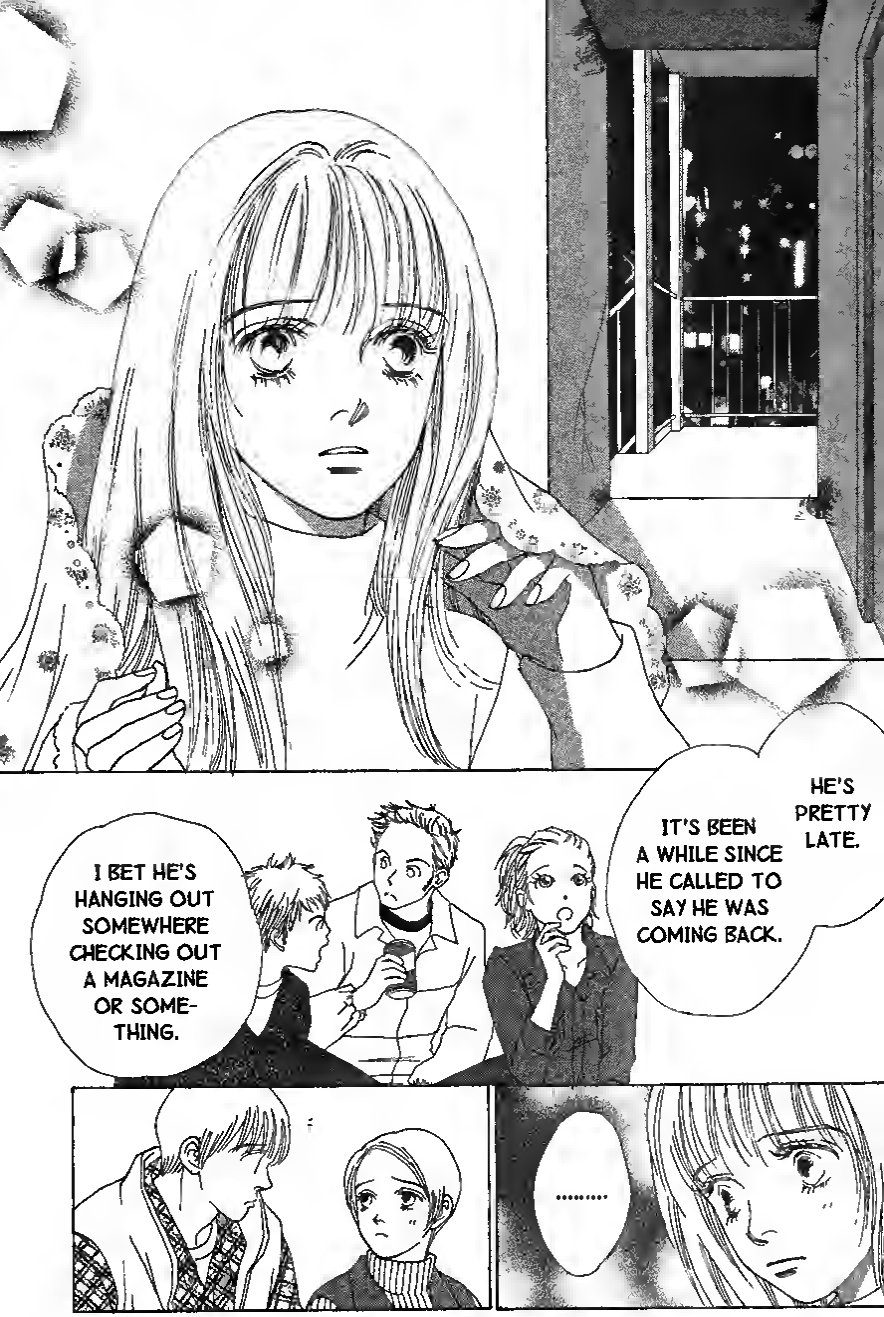
I'M DIFFERENT FROM YUJI!
YOU HEAR ME?! I'M DIF-FERENT!!

THE TRUTH HURTS..
IF I DON'T GET HELP.. I'M IN TROUBLE.
I CAN'T JUST..
..BLEED TO DEATH LIKE THIS..
KIRA..

IT'S SO DARK...
M... MY LEGS...
I CAN'T MOVE MY BODY...
...IN THIS...
...PLACE...
I CAN'T SEE ANY-THING...

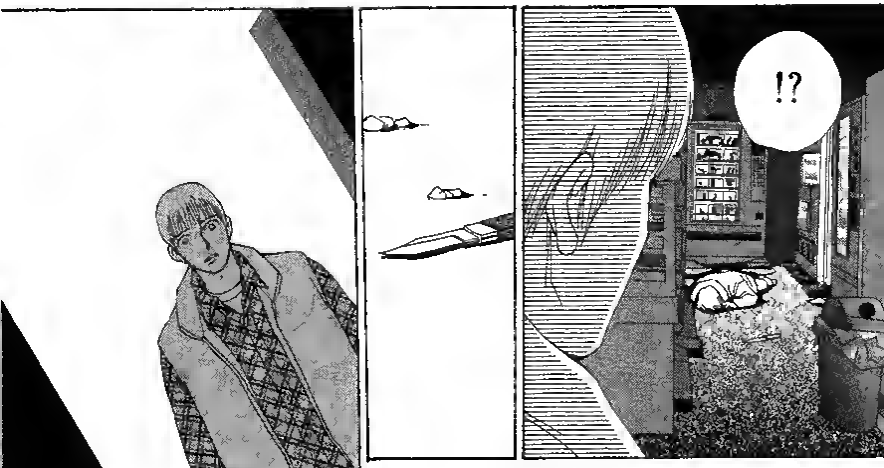
KIRA...

REI?
HE'S BACK!
WHAT?! WHERE?!
I COULD'VE SWORN I JUST HEARD HIS VOICE...
THERE'S NO ONE HERE.


HE'S PRETTY LATE.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE HE CALLED TO SAY HE WAS COMING BACK.
I BET HE'S HANGING OUT SOMEWHERE CHECKING OUT A MAGAZINE OR SOME-THING.
.....

DON'T WORRY, HE'LL BE HOME SOON.
UM...
I'M GOING TO CHECK IT OUT.
!

HUH?
REI'S BIKE...
HE'S NOT HERE.
WHERE THE HELL IS HE? LEAVING HIS BIKE LIKE THAT...


!?

REI!!

WHAT DID YOU SAY?!!!
HELLO, TAT-SUYA?
プルルル
プルルル!
GOD, HOW FAR DID YOU GO TO LOOK FOR HIM?
WHAT?!
LISTEN CAREFULLY
REI'S BEEN STABBED!

HE'S COMPLETELY UNCONSCIOUS!
THEY'RE TAKING HIM TO THE HOSPITAL IN AN AMBULANCE RIGHT NOW!
I'LL CALL YOU WHEN I GET TO THE HOSPITAL!

GREAT...
I'M ALL ALONE AGAIN.
HOW BORING...

THIS IS AN EMERGENCY!
18-YEAR-OLD MALE!
SEVERE BLOOD LOSS DUE TO LACERATIONS IN THE ABDOMINAL AREA
PLEASE PREPARE FOR AN EMERGENCY OPERATION.

TAT-
SUYA!
ANYONE INVOLVED, PLEASE WAIT OVER HERE.
HARUMI!
KIRA!
WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED?
OPERATING ROOM
HE'S IN THE OPERATING ROOM.
WHY IS REI UNCONSCIOUS?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S UP AT THIS POINT..
WHERE'S REI?

OH MY GOD, IT'S COVERED IN BLOOD.
THAT'S.. REI'S JACKET..
KIRA?!
OPERATING ROOM
LET ME GO!
I HAVE TO SEE REI!
WAIT.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WHAT'S ALL THIS NOISE ABOUT?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. THERE'S NO WAY THEY'LL LET YOU IN RIGHT NOW!
I HAVE TO BE WITH HIM!
OPERATING
I NEED TO SEE HIM!!
THIS IS A HOSPITAL! PLEASE BE QUIET!
REI!
REEEEII!!

THE PERIPHERAL ARTERIES AREN'T FUNCTIONING.
HIS VEINS HAVE SHRUNKEN, SO THERE'S NO PLACE FOR THE BLOOD TO FLOW.
PREPARE TO INTUBATE!
I'M IN. I'LL CONNECT HIM TO THE RESPIRATOR.

I HOPE REI'S OKAY...
SHE'S THE ONE WHO'S NOT OKAY.

DON'T TELL ME SHE'LL FOLLOW HIM...
...IF SOMETHING HAPPENS TO REI,
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO KIRA?
IF...
BUT...
SHUT UP!! IT'S BAD LUCK TO SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!
THIS IS TOO SAD!
...I CAN'T BELIEVE THEIR LIVES HAVE TAKEN A TURN LIKE THIS...

PREPARE TO CONNECT THE HEART-LUNG MACHINE. CLAMP THE MAJOR ARTERY IN HIS ABDOMEN.
I WILL SUTURE HIS ABDOMINAL ARTERY NOW.
FORCEPS ON HIS MAIN ARTERY.
WHAT AM I DOING HERE...?
I WAS JUST WAITING WITH EVERYONE FOR REI TO GET BACK...
HOW DID I END UP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

WHAT HAPPENED...?
EVERYTHING AROUND ME IS DARK NOW.
IT'S GETTING DARKER AND I DON'T KNOW WHERE I...
KIRA!!

FATHER!
F-
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
REI'S NOT GOING TO DIE.
GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF!

ARE YOU COLD?
!

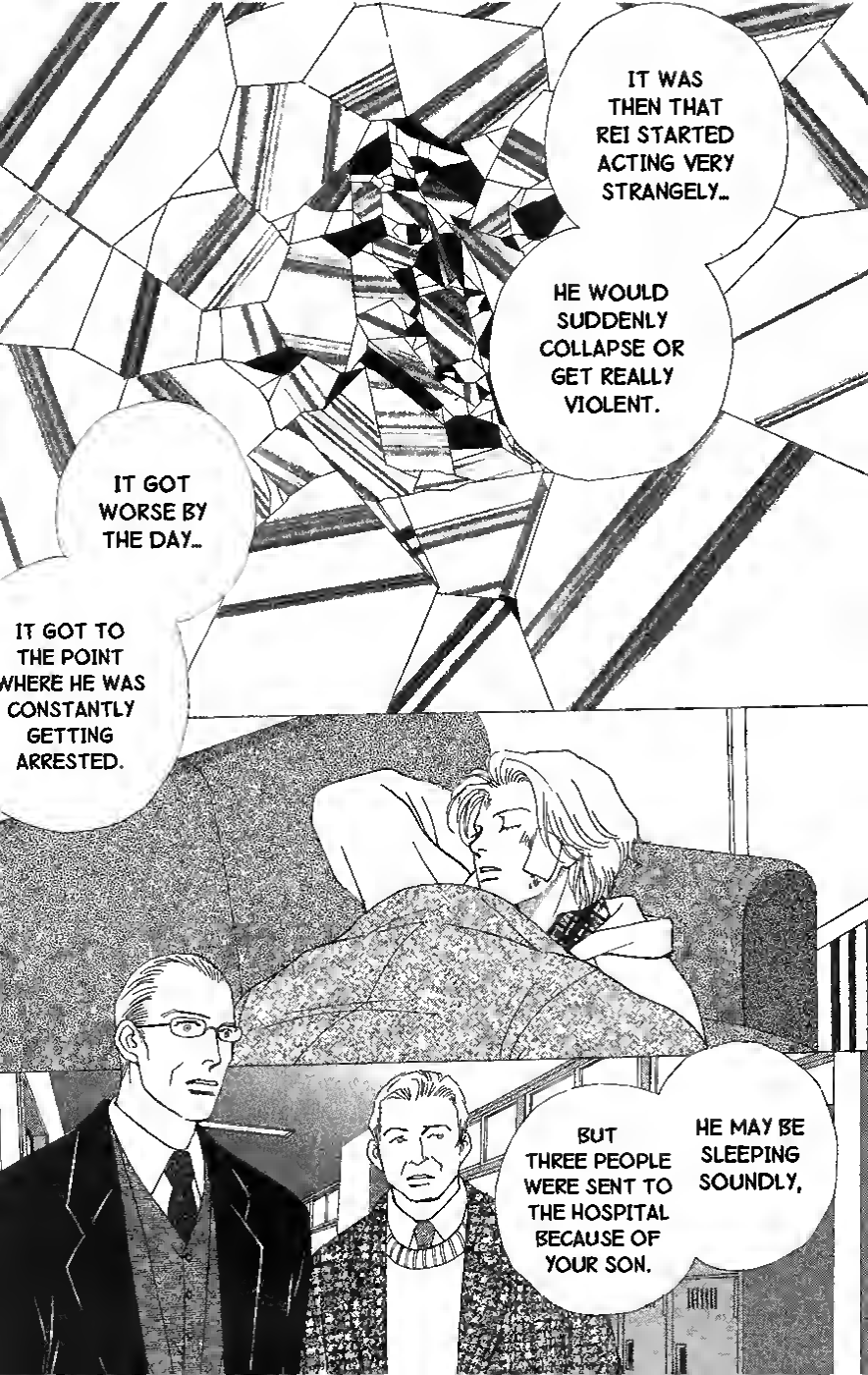
I HATE HOSPITALS.
THEY REMIND ME OF WHEN MY FATHER DIED..
I SEE.. SO YOUR FATHER DIED IN AN ACCIDENT..
YES.. WHEN WE HEARD, WE RAN RIGHT OVER.
HE WAS IN THE O.R. JUST LIKE NOW.

THREE YEARS AGO TODAY..
..I WAS WAITING AT THE HOSPITAL FOR REI TO WAKE UP..
THREE YEARS AGO..
IT WAS THE DAY AFTER SEI DIED..
SEI HAD COMMITTED SUICIDE..
..AND REI, WHO WAS AT THE SCENE, WAS AT THE POLICE STATION GIVING HIS TESTIMONY.

SO YOU TRIED TO SAVE YOUR BROTHER, RIGHT?
NO...
I PUSHED HIM OFF.
THAT'S NOT TRUE, IS IT?
WHAT YOU DID...
ミャー!
ハラ...
HEY, WHAT'S WRONG?

HE'S BEEN ASLEEP SINCE HE COLLAPSED AT THE POLICE STATION LAST NIGHT.
REI?!
REI!
REI! ARE YOU OKAY?!
REI?
WHERE... AM I..?
IN THE HOSPI-TAL.
YOU COLLAPSED AT THE POLICE STATION. DON'T YOU REMEMBER?

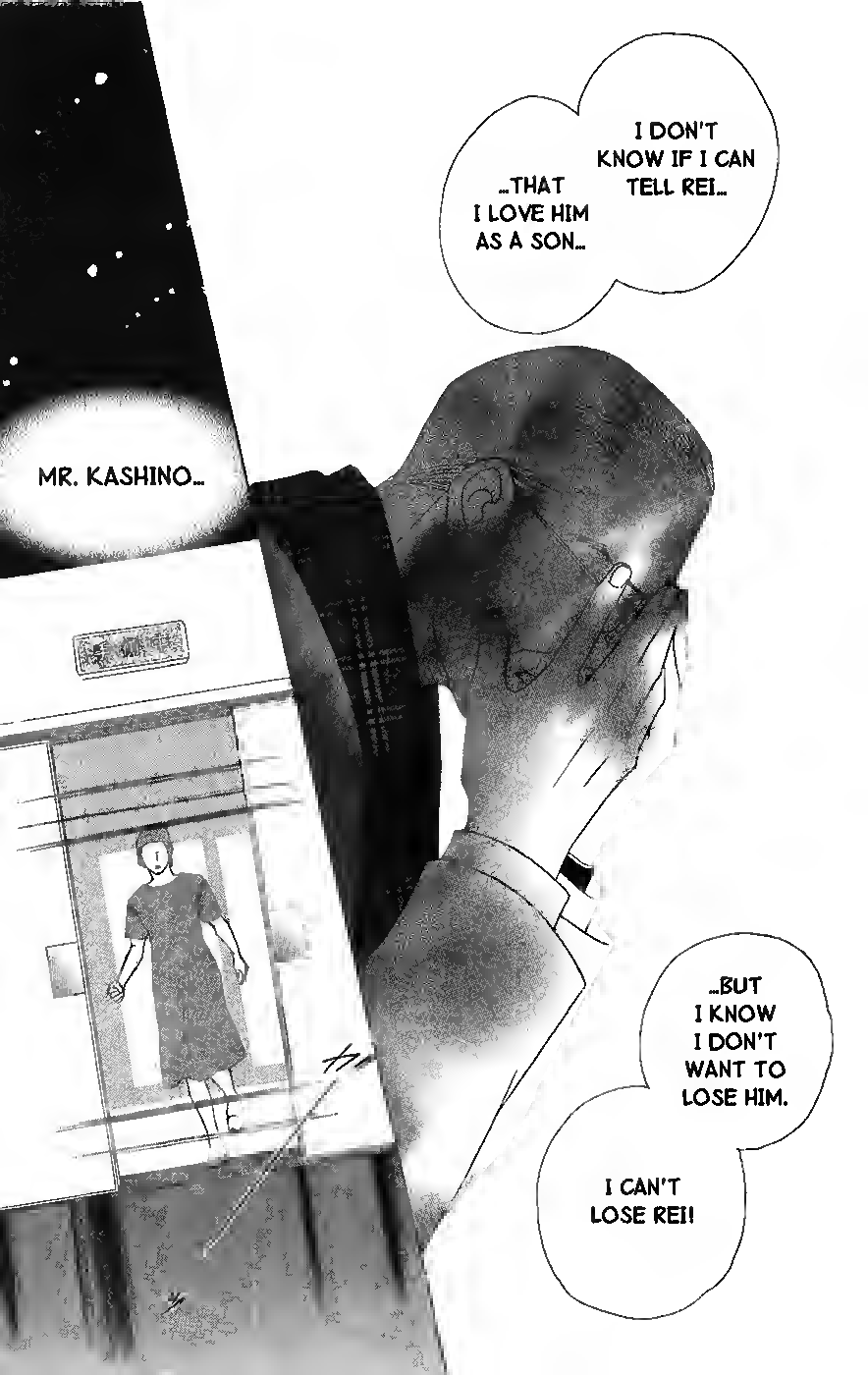
WHO ARE YOU_?
REI DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS.
HE COULDN'T REMEMBER ANYTHING FROM THE SHOCK OF SEI'S SUICIDE.


IT WAS THEN THAT REI STARTED ACTING VERY STRANGELY..
HE WOULD SUDDENLY COLLAPSE OR GET REALLY VIOLENT.
IT GOT WORSE BY THE DAY..
IT GOT TO THE POINT WHERE HE WAS CONSTANTLY GETTING ARRESTED.
HE MAY BE SLEEPING SOUNDLY,
BUT THREE PEOPLE WERE SENT TO THE HOSPITAL BECAUSE OF YOUR SON.

BUT YOUR SON MAY HAVE A CHANCE AT REHABILITATION.
TO BE QUITE HONEST,
THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE IN THIS WORLD WHO CAN'T BE HELPED.
IT'S NOT TOO LATE.
YOU NEED TO DEAL WITH THIS NOW AND TRY TOUGH LOVE ON HIM.
THAT'S WHEN I FORCED REI INTO THE PSYCHIATRIC CENTER...
...BASED ON OFFICER OKUDA'S ADVICE.
THERE WAS A DOCTOR THERE WHO CARED FOR MY WIFE, AND WAS VERY HONEST.
HE TRULY CARED ABOUT REI.

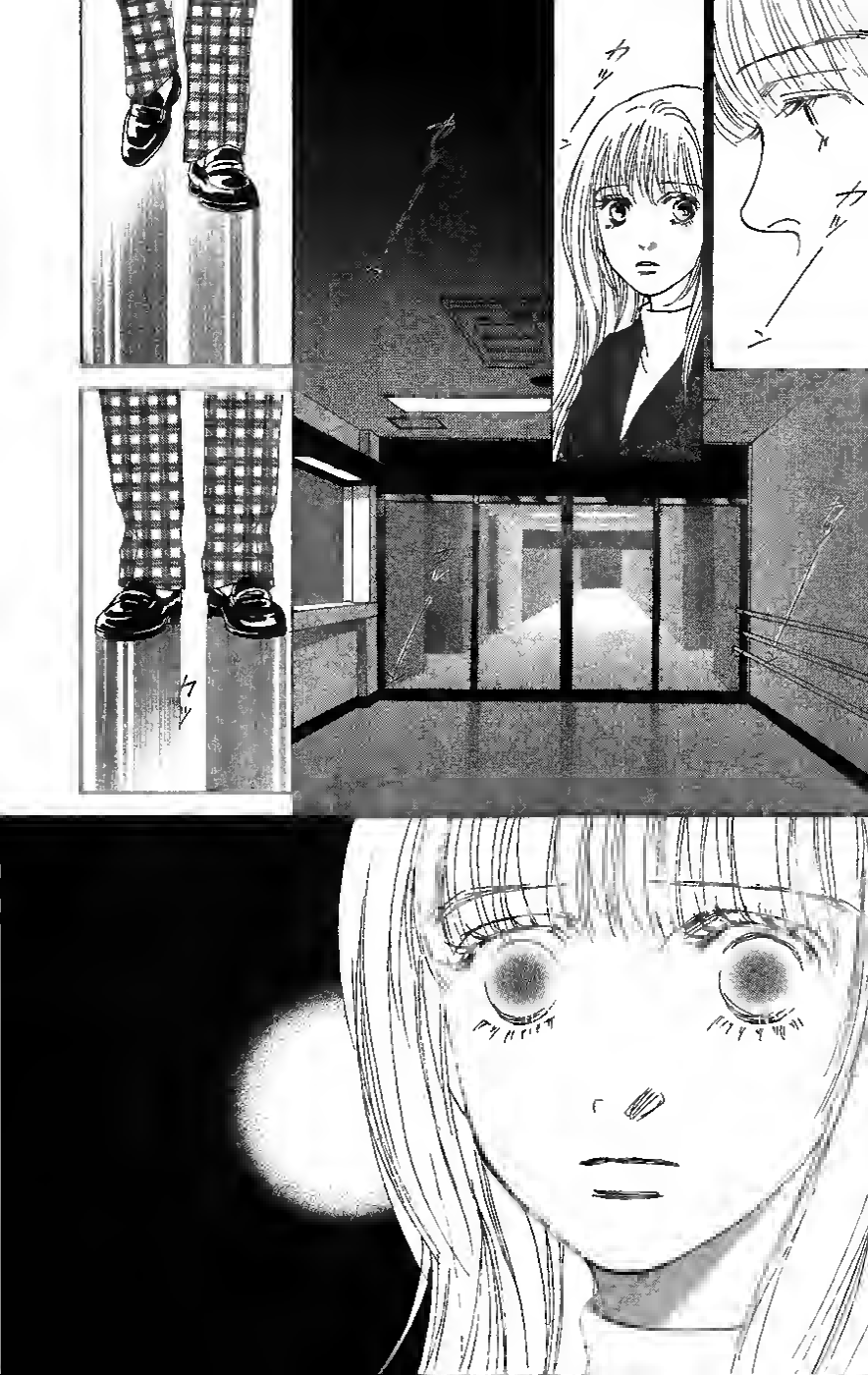
YES..
ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT SEI'S DEATH IS THE CAUSE OF REI'S BEHAV-IOR?!!
WHAT I'M GOING TO DO IS "REPROGRAM" REI. HE NEEDS TO UNDERSTAND THAT SEI'S SUICIDE WAS NOT HIS FAULT.
Y PLAN IS TO TILL POSITIVE NFORMATION ID THOUGHTS N HIS PSYCHE.
NOW THAT HIS MEMORY'S SHOT, INSTEAD OF TELLING HIM HIS MOTHER COMMITTED SUICIDE, I WILL TELL HIM HIS MOTHER WAS MENTALLY ILL...
...AND HIS BROTHER KILLED HIMSELF BECAUSE HE HAD PROBLEMS THAT HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH REI..

I DON'T REALLY REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED WHEN SEI DIED.
THE ONLY THING I REMEMBER IS COLLAPSING AT THE POLICE STATION.
THAT'S WHY...
...REI'S MEMORIES ARE SO VAGUE...
...AND WHY THERE ARE GAPS IN HIS MEMORY.
I JUST WANTED TO PROTECT HIM.
AKIHIKO DIED, SHOKO DIED...
...THEN SEI DIED.
REI IS ALL I HAVE NOW.


I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN TELL REI...
...THAT I LOVE HIM AS A SON...
MR. KASHINO...
...BUT I KNOW I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HIM.
I CAN'T LOSE REI!

EXCUSE ME
YOU'RE
THE FAMILY
THE PATIEN
RIGHT?
HE NEEDS A BLOOD TRANSFUSION. PLEASE TELL ME YOUR BLOOD TYPE.
I'M HIS FATHER. I HAVE THE SAME BLOOD TYPE AS MY SON.
THEN PLEASE COME WITH ME.
I'LL HAVE TO ADMINISTER A BLOOD TEST.
.....

REI...


カツ
カツ
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ブルブル
SEI...?

NO!
DON'T GO TO HIM!
KIRA?!

PLEASE, NOT YET!
KIRA?!
BLOOD PRES-SURE'S DOWN.
DON'T TAKE REI WITH YOU, SEI!
BEGIN THE TRANSFUSION!

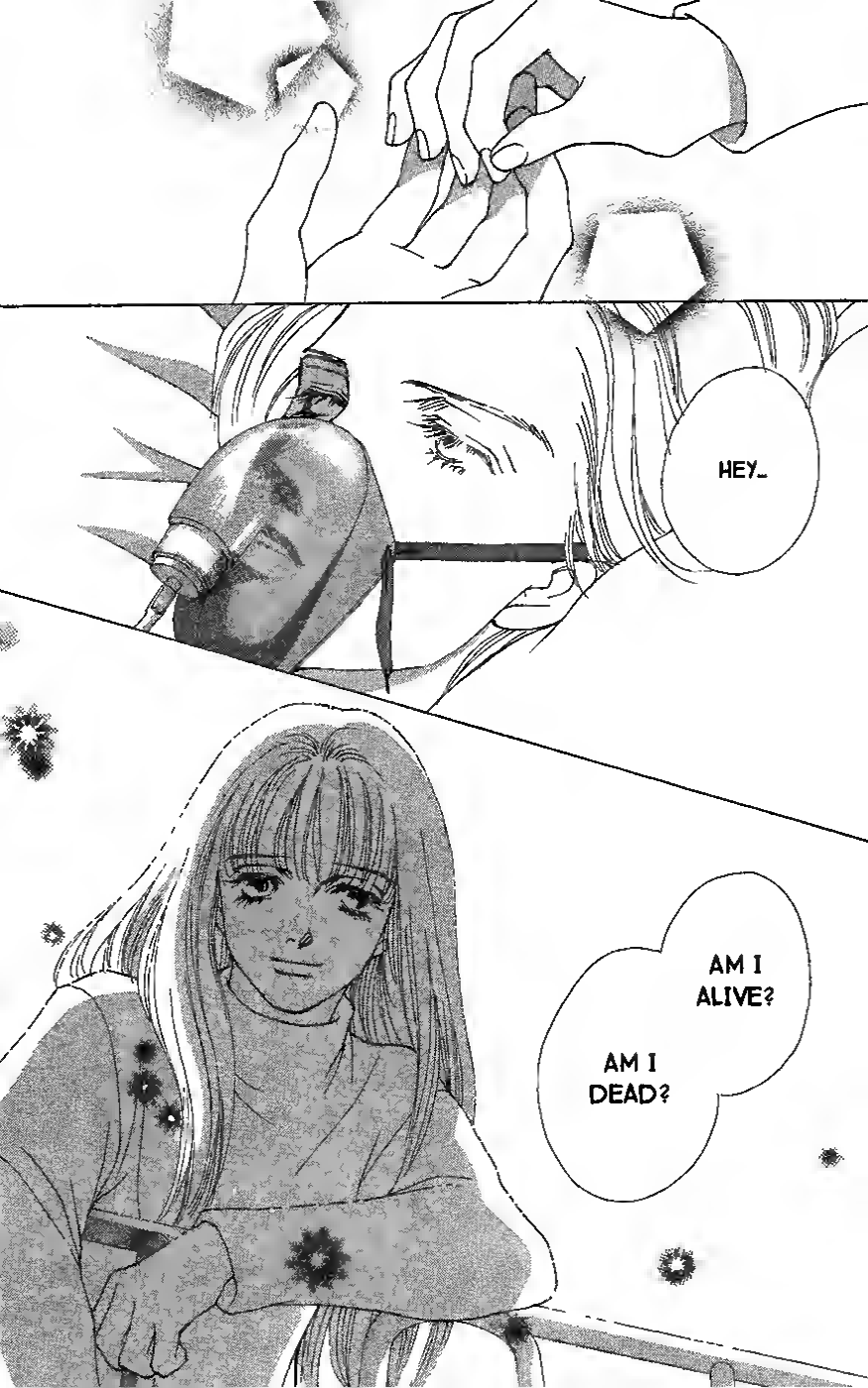
HEY?

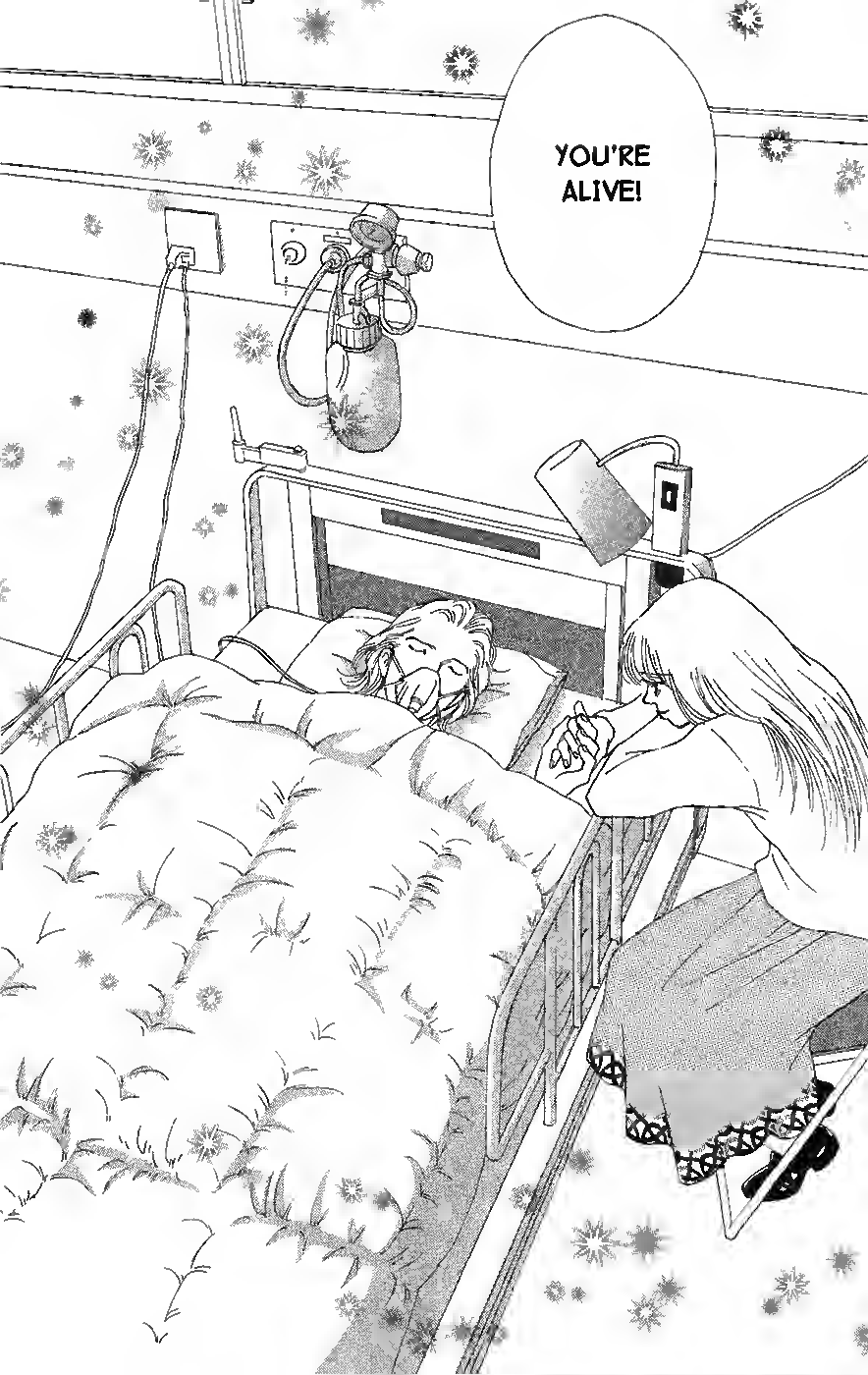
WHAT AM
DOING HERE

HIS HEART HAS STOPPED.

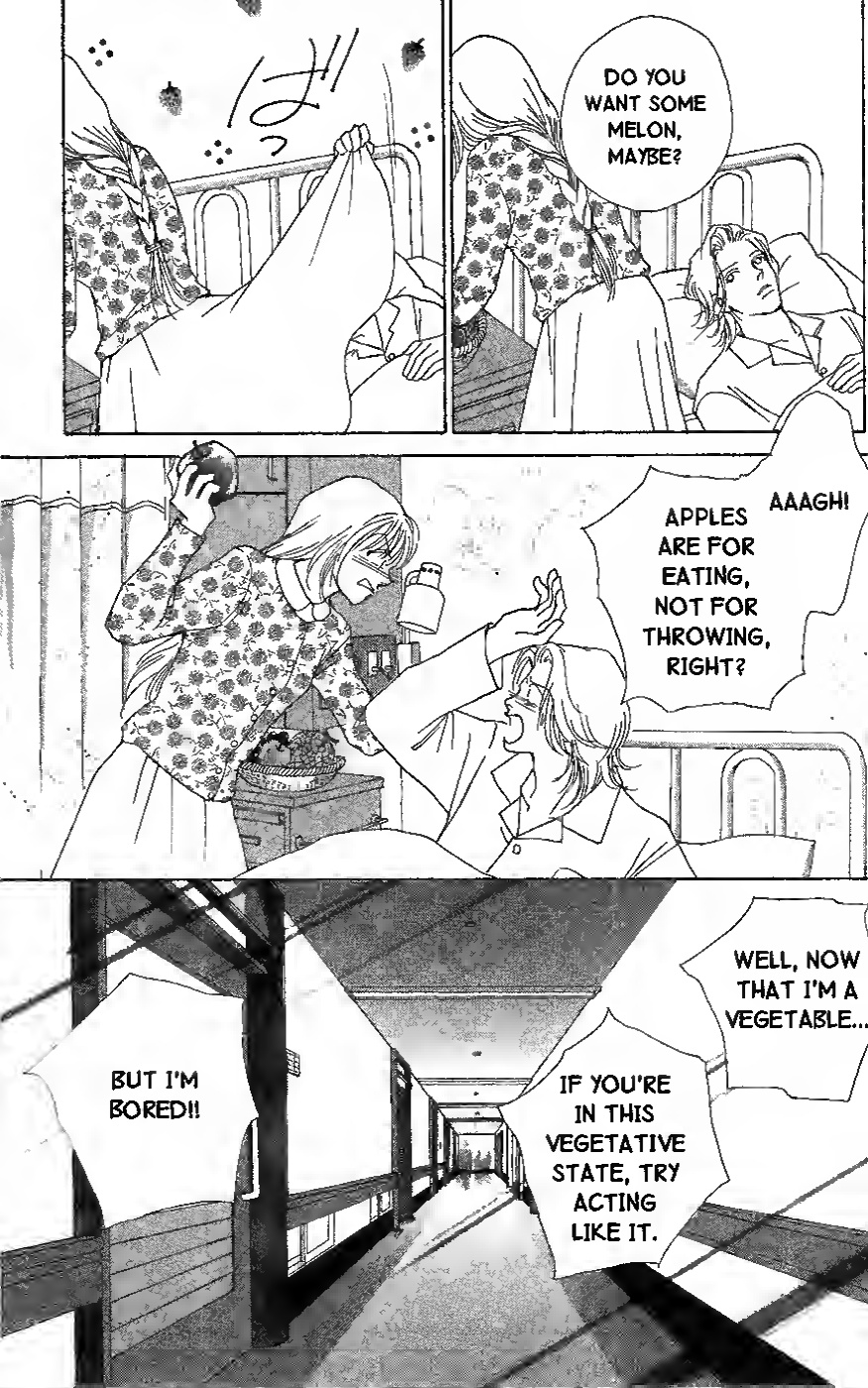
LET'S GO HOME.

I'M SORRY, SEI...
IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO JOIN YOU YET...


HEY..
AM I ALIVE?
AM I DEAD?


YOU'RE ALIVE!

501
APPLES ARE FOR EATING,
NOT FOR THROWING.


DO YOU WANT SOME MELON, MAYBE?
AAAGH!
APPLES ARE FOR EATING, NOT FOR THROWING, RIGHT?
WELL, NOW THAT I'M A VEGETABLE...
IF YOU'RE IN THIS VEGETATIVE STATE, TRY ACTING LIKE IT.
BUT I'M BORED!!

IF YOU'RE BORED, TRY GOING TO THE PHYSICAL THERAPY ROOM.
OFFICER OKUDA...
HIS RECOVERY IS MUCH FASTER THAN WE EXPECTED.
I'M A LITTLE SURPRISED, BUT RELIEVED, I HAVE TO SAY...

I CAME BY TODAY TO SPEAK TO YOU ABOUT MASAO KIRISHIMA.
WE HAD TO LET HIM GO BECAUSE HE'S ONLY 16 AND STILL A MINOR.
HE'S ALSO IN NEED OF PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION.
HE'LL PROBABLY BE SENT TO A JUVENILE HALL WHERE HE'LL GET PSYCHIATRIC TREATMENT.
EVEN SO, HE'S PROBABLY GOING TO GET OUT AT SOME POINT.
THAT'S OUTRA-GEOUS!
MY SON WAS ALMOST KILLED!
.....

HOW CAN YOU..?
I CAN'T GUARANTEE WHETHER THEY'LL KEEP HIM LOCKED UP..
..BUT KIRISHIMA PROBABLY WON'T ATTACK YOUR SON AGAIN.
DO YOU KNOW WHO THIS IS?
WHO IS THIS..?

MASAO DIDN'T REMEMBER REI.

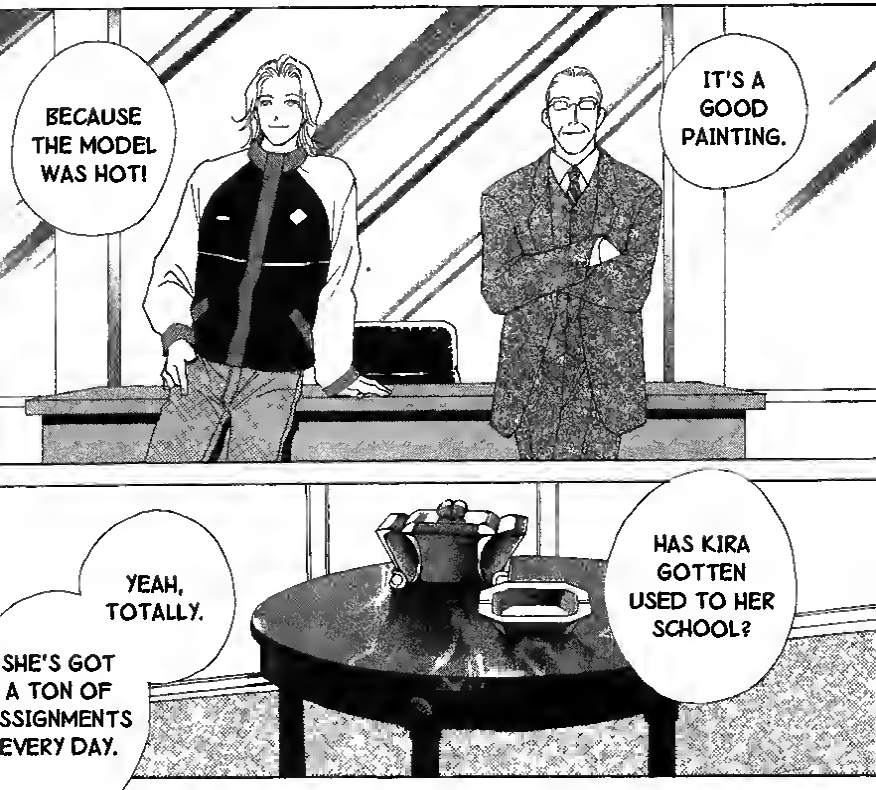
WHAT THIS MEANS IS HE ERASED REI FROM HIS MEMORY BANK.

REI NO LONGER EXISTS IN MASAO'S MIND.

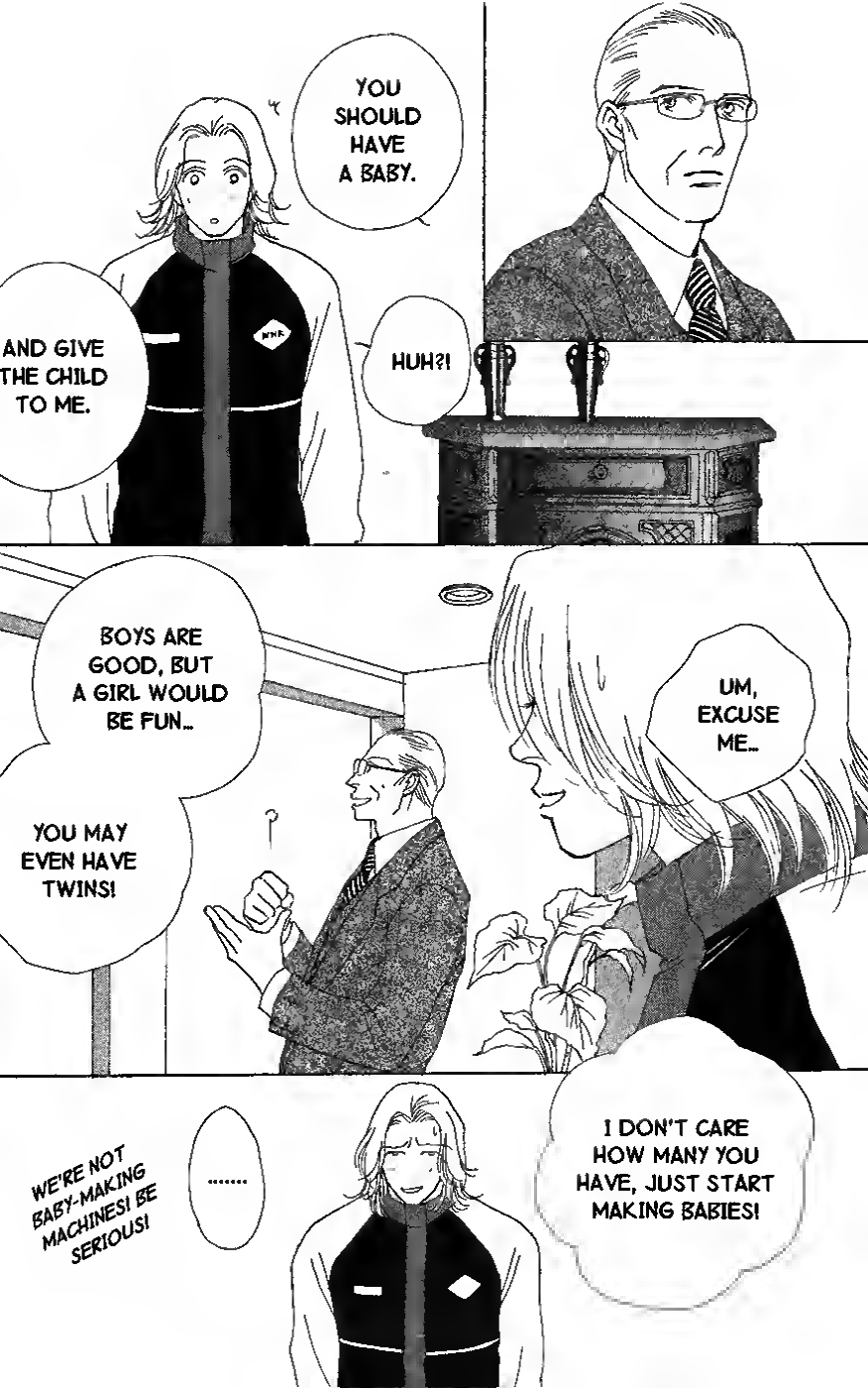
I HAVE SOMEONE TO PROTECT ME..
..AND SOMEONE WHO I WANT TO PROTECT.
POOR GUY..
HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT..
I WENT THROUGH THIS 18 YEARS AGO.
I RELIVED THIS MOMENT WHEN I SAW YOUR MOTHER CRYING WHEN AKIHIKO DIED.
JUST DON'T MAKE KIRA CRY.

YOU'VE GOT MORE GRAY IN YOUR HAIR.
IS THAT BECAUSE OF ME?
I'M SORRY..
CRAP, I MADE HIM CRY..
.....

HEY.
HELLO, ARE YOU HERE TO SEE THE PRESIDENT?
YEAH! I HAVE A LITTLE GIFT.
WHAT'S IN THAT PACKAGE?
A TIME BOMB.
I'M KIDDING, KIDDING!
WHY WOULD ANYONE BELIEVE THAT?


BECAUSE THE MODEL WAS HOT!
IT'S A GOOD PAINTING.
YEAH, TOTALLY.
SHE'S GOT A TON OF SSIGNMENTS EVERY DAY.
HAS KIRA GOTTEN USED TO HER SCHOOL?

KIDS...
CONCEN-
TRATING
ON SCHOOL
IS GOOD...
...BUT AREN'T
YOU HAVING
KIDS?
WHAT?!
IT'S BEEN
CLOSE TO
A YEAR SINCE
YOU GOT
MARRIED.
DON'T
YOU THINK
IT'S TIME
YOU STARTED
THINKING
ABOUT IT?
YEAH, BUT
KIRA'S THE
ONE GIVING
BIRTH...
I'M NOT THAT
ESTABLISHED
YET.
HEY,
YOU AND
SONOKO
SHOULD GET
MARRIED.
YOU COULD
ADOPT A CHILD AND
RAISE IT TOGETHER.
YOU NEED SOMEONE
LIKE YOU TO
TAKE OVER
YOUR POSITION.

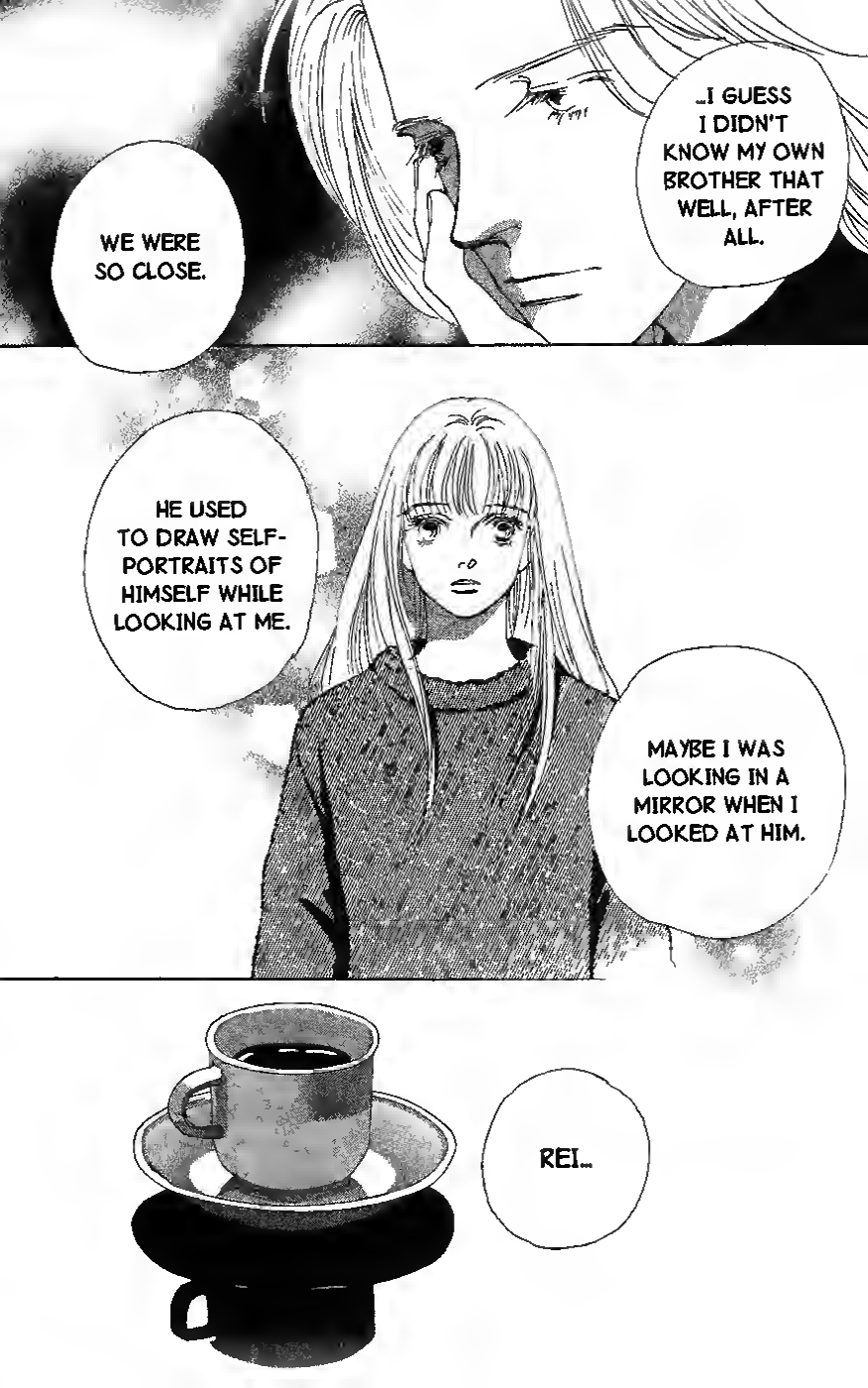

YOU SHOULD HAVE A BABY.
HUH?!
AND GIVE THE CHILD TO ME.
UM, EXCUSE ME..
BOYS ARE GOOD, BUT A GIRL WOULD BE FUN..
YOU MAY EVEN HAVE TWINS!
I DON'T CARE HOW MANY YOU HAVE, JUST START MAKING BABIES!
.....
WE'RE NOT BABY-MAKING MACHINES! BE SERIOUS!

WOW,
THIS SKETCH HAS A REALLY GOOD VIBE TO IT.
I THOUGHT I'D DO A SMALL NO. 10 SIZE PAINTING.
NBHD.
DO YOU HAVE A TITLE YET?
THAT SOUNDS GREAT.

"FATHER AND SON."
YEAH...
WOW! THIS IS FOR MY FATHER?
AT FIRST, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY...
THEN, AS I WAS PAINTING, I WANTED TO GIVE IT TO YOUR FATHER...
HMM, THAT'LL BE COOL. IT'LL MAKE HIM HAPPY.

HEY, YOUR ART SEEMS DIFFERENT NOW.
REALLY?
YEAH, COMPARED TO WHEN WE FIRST MET..
..THERE'S MORE DEPTH TO IT.
BAR
AND I WAS ABOUT TO BECOME A WIDOW ON MY WEDDING DAY.
YEAH, MY BIRTHDAY WAS ALMOST THE LAST DAY OF MY LIFE.
OF COURSE THERE'S MOR DEPTH.. A LOT HAS HAPPENED.

WELL, MRS. KASHINO, IT ALL TURNED OUT JUST FINE.
IT SEEMS SO.
YOU KNOW, WHEN I ALMOST DIED LAST YEAR, I SAW SEI.
HE WAS STILL IN JUNIOR HIGH.
I GUESS I'M ALWAYS GONNA SEE HIM LIKE THAT.
THINKING ABOUT IT NOW...


WE WERE SO CLOSE.
...I GUESS I DIDN'T KNOW MY OWN BROTHER THAT WELL, AFTER ALL.
HE USED TO DRAW SELF-PORTRAITS OF HIMSELF WHILE LOOKING AT ME.
MAYBE I WAS LOOKING IN A MIRROR WHEN I LOOKED AT HIM.
REI...

I WASN'T SURE FOR A LONG TIME...
...BUT I THINK YOU SHOULD HAVE THIS.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO GIVE YOU.
REI...

...KEEP IT WITH YOU FOREVER.

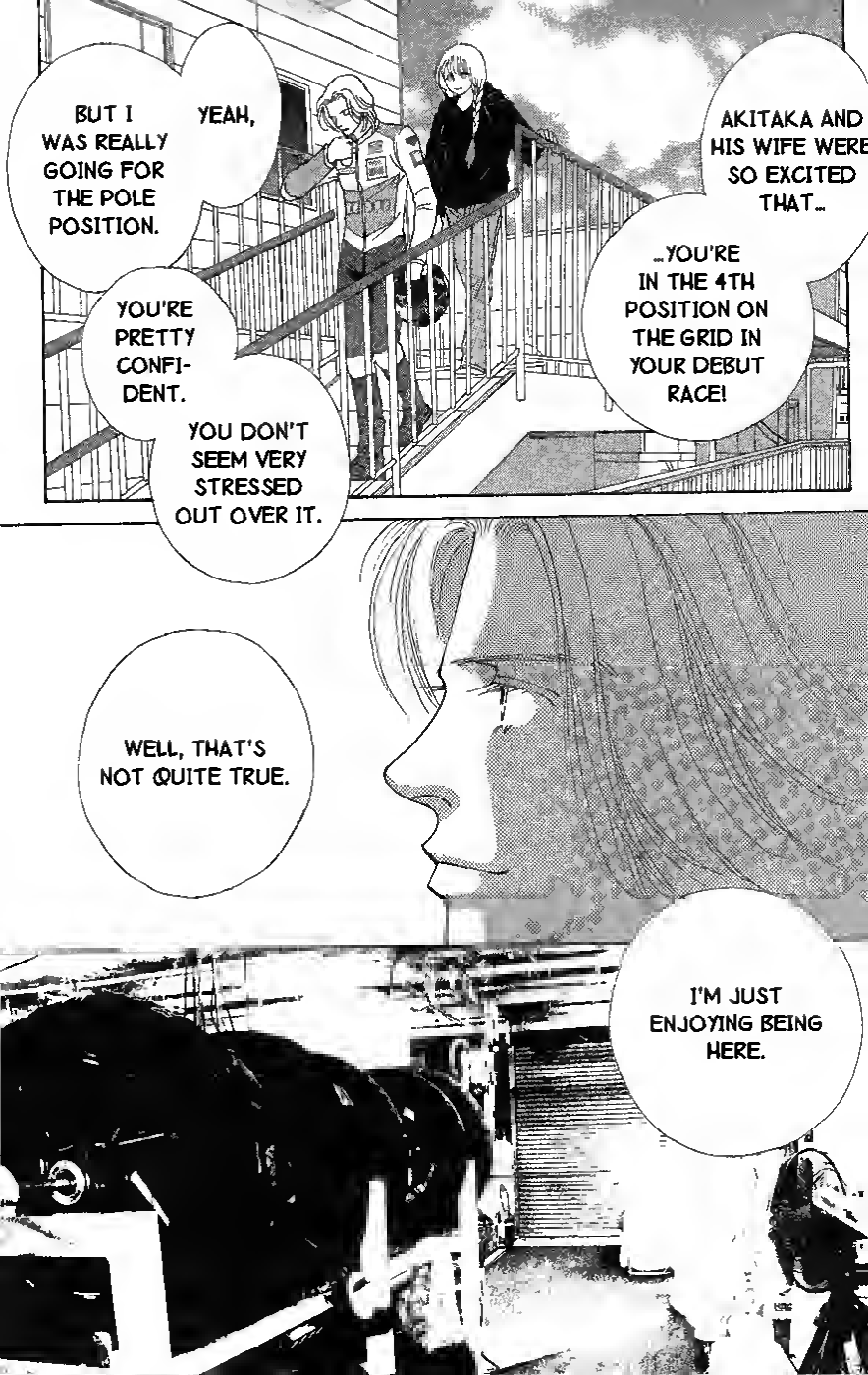
SEI, WAIT UP FOR ME OVER THERE.
I'LL BE THERE EVENTUALLY.
HOW STUPID...
..TO LIVE ONLY 15 YEARS..

BUT BY THAT TIME, I'LL BE AN OLD GEEZER.
YOU MAY NOT EVEN RECOGNIZE ME.

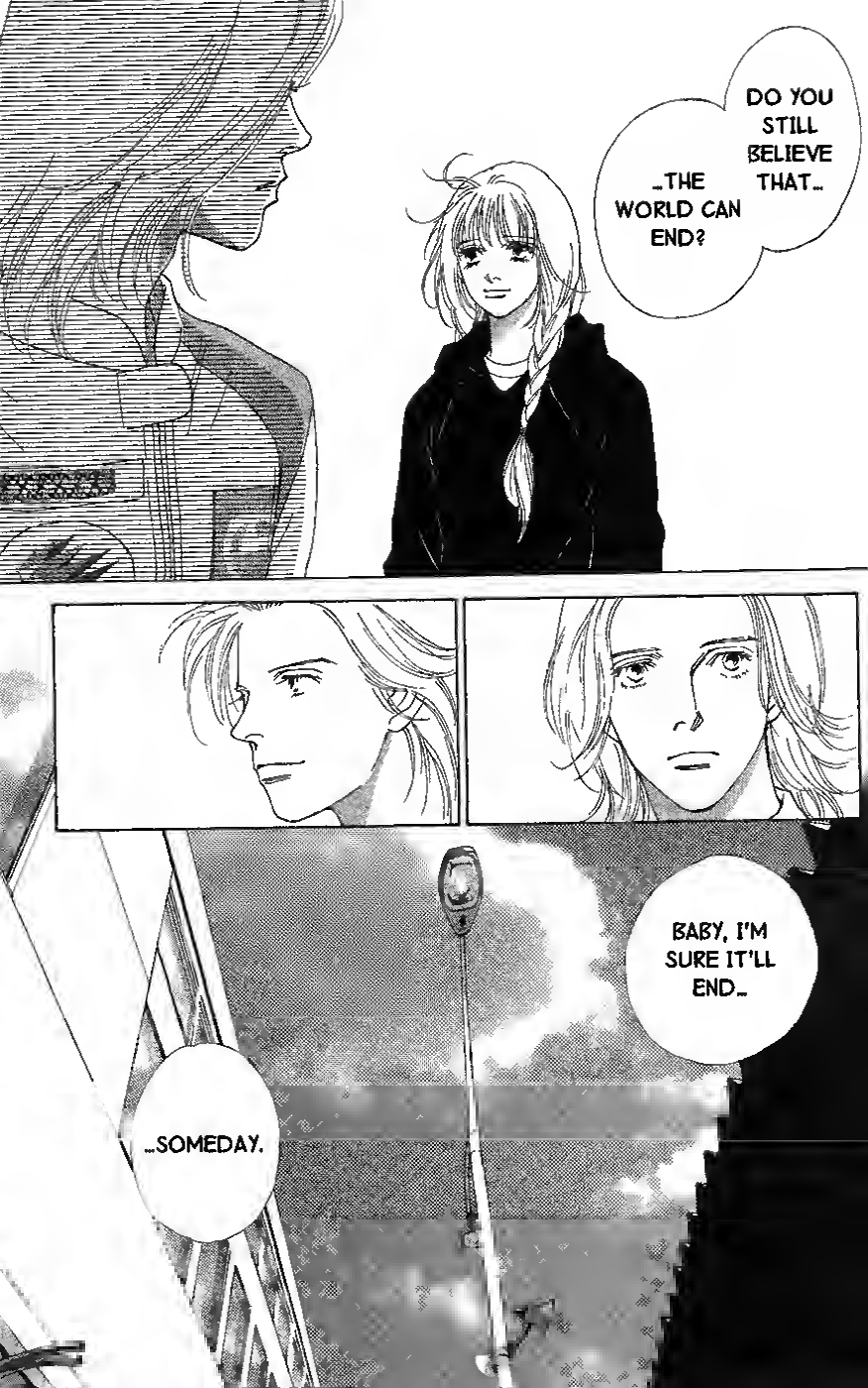
FIRST, LET ME ANNOUNCE THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST HEAT OF THE 500 CC RACE.
THE NUMBERS HAVE EXCEEDED EVEN OUR OWN EXPECTATIONS.

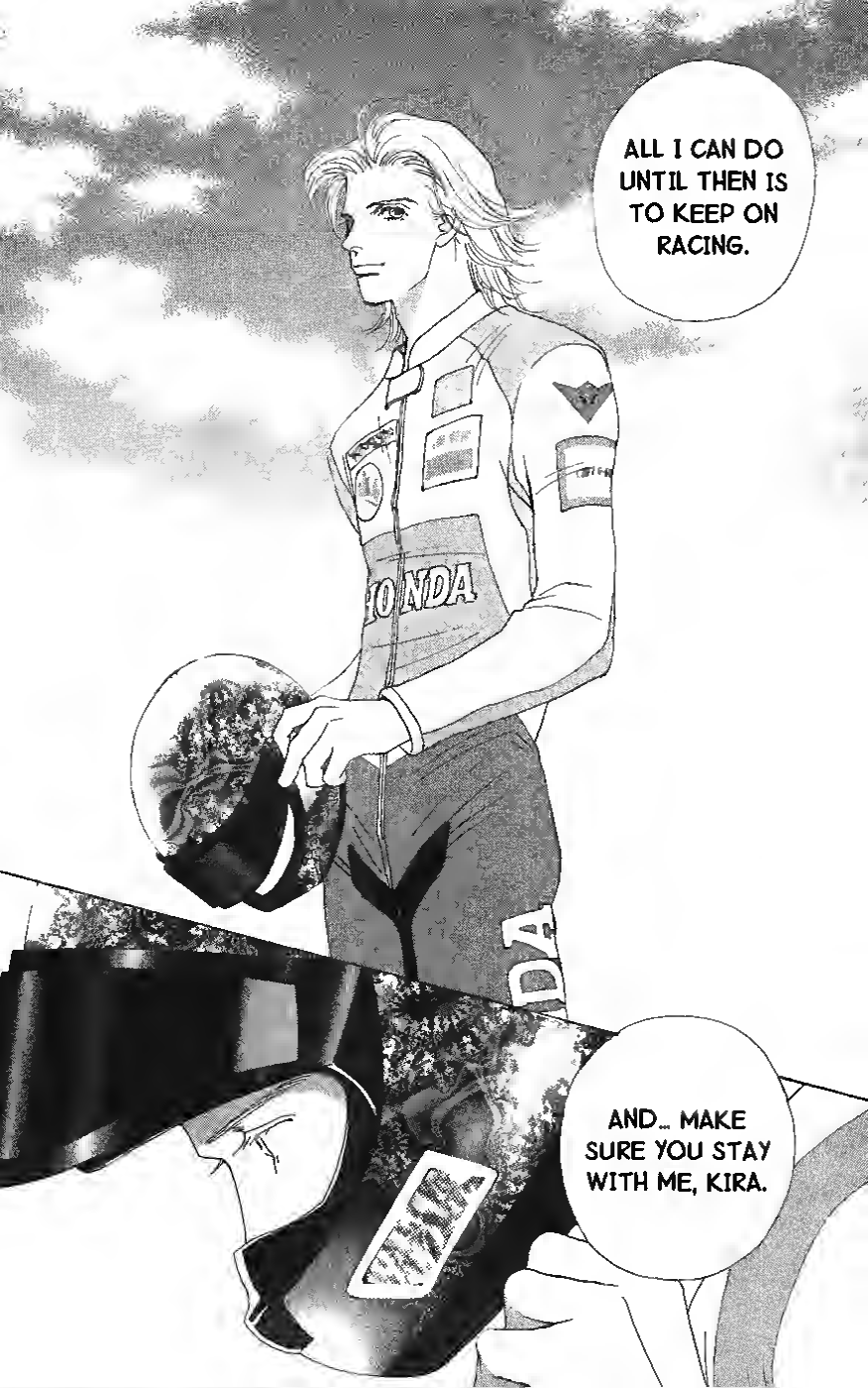
THIS YEAR'S 500 HAS AN UNUSUAL FRONT ROW.*
THERE ARE FOUR NEW FACES ALL IN THE TOP RANKS.
*FRONT ROW
ESPECIALLY THE RACER IN FOURTH PLACE RIGHT NOW, THE WILD CARD* KASHINO.
HE'S ALWAYS HAD A HOT REPUTATION, BUT TO DEBUT AT THE GRAND PRIX IN FOURTH PLACE...
*WILD CARD
OUTSIDE OF TH
NORMAL NOMINATI

IS THIS YEAR'S JAPAN GRAND PRIX GOING TO BE A STORMY ONE?
REI!


BUT I WAS REALLY GOING FOR THE POLE POSITION.
YEAH,
YOU'RE PRETTY CONFI-DENT.
YOU DON'T SEEM VERY STRESSED OUT OVER IT.
AKITAKA AND HIS WIFE WERE SO EXCITED THAT..
..YOU'RE IN THE 4TH POSITION ON THE GRID IN YOUR DEBUT RACE!
WELL, THAT'S NOT QUITE TRUE.
I'M JUST ENJOYING BEING HERE.

IT'S SO GREAT...
...TO BE ALIVE.
REI, DO YOU REMEMBER...
...WHEN WE WERE TALKING ABOUT THE END OF THE WORLD?


DO YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT...
...THE WORLD CAN END?
BABY, I'M SURE IT'LL END...
...SOMEDAY.


ALL I CAN DO UNTIL THEN IS TO KEEP ON RACING.
AND... MAKE SURE YOU STAY WITH ME, KIRA.

WE'RE ALL LOOKING FOR
A PEACEFUL AND SAFE PLACE...

BUT MAYBE THERE IS
NO SUCH PLACE.

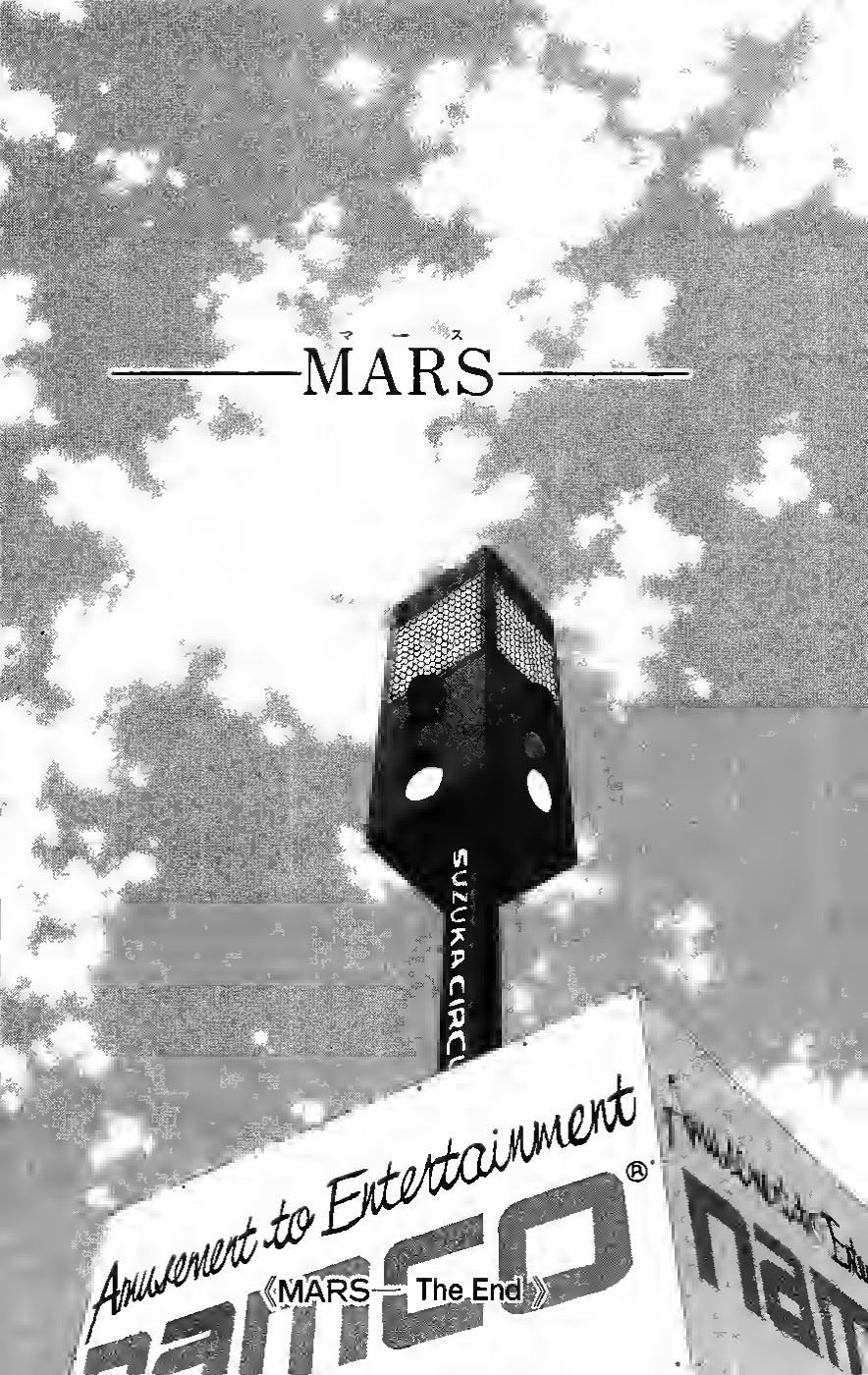
THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE MAIN EVENT OF THE JAPAN GRAND PRIX. THE FINAL RACE OF THE 500 CC CLASS IS ABOUT TO GET UNDERWAY.

BUT WE KEEP GOING NO MATTER WHAT'S
WAITING FOR US DOWN THE ROAD.

WE DON'T STOP LIVING.

THE SIGNAL IS CHANGING...
AND...THEY'RE OFF!!

MARS（マーズ）



《MARS— The End》

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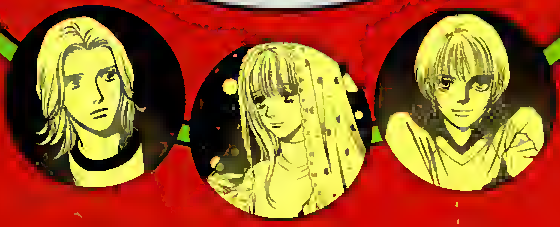
An epic romonce that spons 15 volumes, MARS is one af Jopon's most popular comics for teen girls ever.



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